Arbery shooting

Three men who killed Ahmaud Arbery found guilty of hate crimes. **News, Page 4**

Air Canada returns

Airline will resume Bradley to Toronto flights after a two-year absence. **News, Page 11**

Huskies upset Wildcats

Cole's late basket the diference as UConn rallies to stun 'Nova, 71-69. **Sports, Page 1**

Spring-like

Partly to mostly sunny and breezy; high 67. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant

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CRISIS IN UKRAINE

US sanctions banks, oligarchs

DIPLOMACY HALTED: Hopes for a diplomatic resolution to the threat of invasion, which U.S. officials have for weeks portrayed as all but inevitable, appeared to evaporate. Secretary of State Antony Blinken canceled plans for a Thursday meeting in Geneva with his Russian counterpart, saying it would not be productive and that Russia's actions indicated Moscow was not serious about a peaceful path to resolving the crisis.

Penalties issued by White House, allies following vote by Russian lawmakers to OK use of force

By Vladimir Isachenkov, Yuras Karmanau and Aamer Madhani
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The East-West faceoff over Ukraine escalated dramatically Tuesday, with Russian lawmakers authorizing President Vladimir Putin to use military force outside his country and President Joe Biden and European leaders responding by slapping sanctions on Russian oligarchs and banks.

The U.S. and Russian leaders both signaled that an even bigger confrontation could lie ahead. Putin has yet to unleash the force of the 150,000 troops massed on three sides of Ukraine, while Biden held back on the toughest sanctions that could cause economic turmoil for Russia but said they would go ahead if there is further aggression.

The measures, accompanied by the repositioning of additional U.S. troops to the Baltic nations on NATO's eastern flank bordering Russia, came as Russian forces rolled into rebel-held areas in eastern Ukraine after Putin said he was recognizing the independence of the separatist region in defiance of U.S. and European demands.

Speaking at the White House, Biden said the Kremlin had flagrantly violated international law in what he called the "beginning of a Russian invasion of Ukraine." He warned of more sanctions if Putin went further.

"We are united in our support of Ukraine," Biden said. "We are united in our opposition to Russian aggression." When it comes to Russian claims of a justification or pretext for an

Turn to Sanctions, *Page 2*



'WE NEED HELP'

UConn Health Center seeks $50M bailout from state, including large portion for malpractice trust fund

By Christopher Keating | Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — State lawmakers debated Tuesday over providing an additional $50 million for the struggling UConn Health Center, which has generated deficits on a consistent basis in the past.

Gov. Ned Lamont is calling for an additional $30.5 million for operating expenses for the health center, mainly to fund the fringe benefits for state employees that are far beyond other competing hospitals.

"Primarily due to the state's legacy unfunded pension and health care liabilities, these costs have been increasing at alarming and unsustainable rates," said Dr. Bruce Liang, the center's interim chief executive officer.

"In fact, the state's fringe benefit rates are over 70% versus an average of approximately 26% compared to other area hospitals, with the majority of the difference being attributable to these unfunded legacy costs. These are costs we can no longer cover for the state," Liang said.

Some Republican legislators are opposed to a bailout of UConn Health Center, above, citing the high costs to state taxpayers. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Turn to Bailout, *Page 3*

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Delayed care now haunting patients

Doctors: Those who put off procedures suffer consequences

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

As COVID-19 raged through Connecticut at various points during the past two years, many residents delayed seeking medical care for non-coronavirus issues, out of fear of the virus or a desire to preserve hospital capacity.

Now, doctors say, that delayed care is catching up with people, some of whom are showing advanced health issues that might have otherwise been mitigated. People whose mini-strokes went untreated are coming back with larger strokes, while people who missed routine screenings are presenting with advanced stages of disease.

"As a result of that delay, sometimes what's initially mild becomes more severe," said Dr. Kevin Sheth, a critical care and stroke neurologist at Yale New Haven Hospital.

"When you have a bunch of folks that have not been engaging with the health care system, it's not great for the initial event, but there's a widespread concern that for some years to come there's going to be a relative uptick because of our

Turn to Delayed, *Page 3*

STELLA BROWN 1969-2022

Restaurateur embraced Hartford community with love, African food

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The Hartford community had already said one goodbye to beloved restaurateur Stella Brown when she closed the doors of Stella's African Eatery with dreams of traveling to Africa and writing a cookbook.

Then, on Feb. 9, came another goodbye — Brown died in Houston, just one week after her 53rd birthday.

A third goodbye will be March 5, when the community is invited to gather and celebrate her life at a memorial service at Time Frozen Studios at 30 Arbor St. in Hartford at 11 a.m.

Brown — whose full name was Delinda Estella Brown Jagne — was diagnosed in January with stage-four pancreatic cancer. Brown's niece, Anjee McNary, said Brown died at home, surrounded by family members.

"She was living in Houston because her daughter Chrystal had moved to Houston," McNary said. "She was thinking of opening a plant-based Afro-Caribbean restaurant in the Houston area."

Brown closed her eatery at 461

Turn to Brown, *Page 3*



A memorial service will be held March 5 in Hartford for Stella Brown, former owner of Stella's African Eatery. **COURANT FILE**

Disability-rights groups vow to block aid-in-dying bill

Disability-rights activists on Tuesday vowed to block state legislation that would permit terminally ill patients to obtain a physician's help to end their lives. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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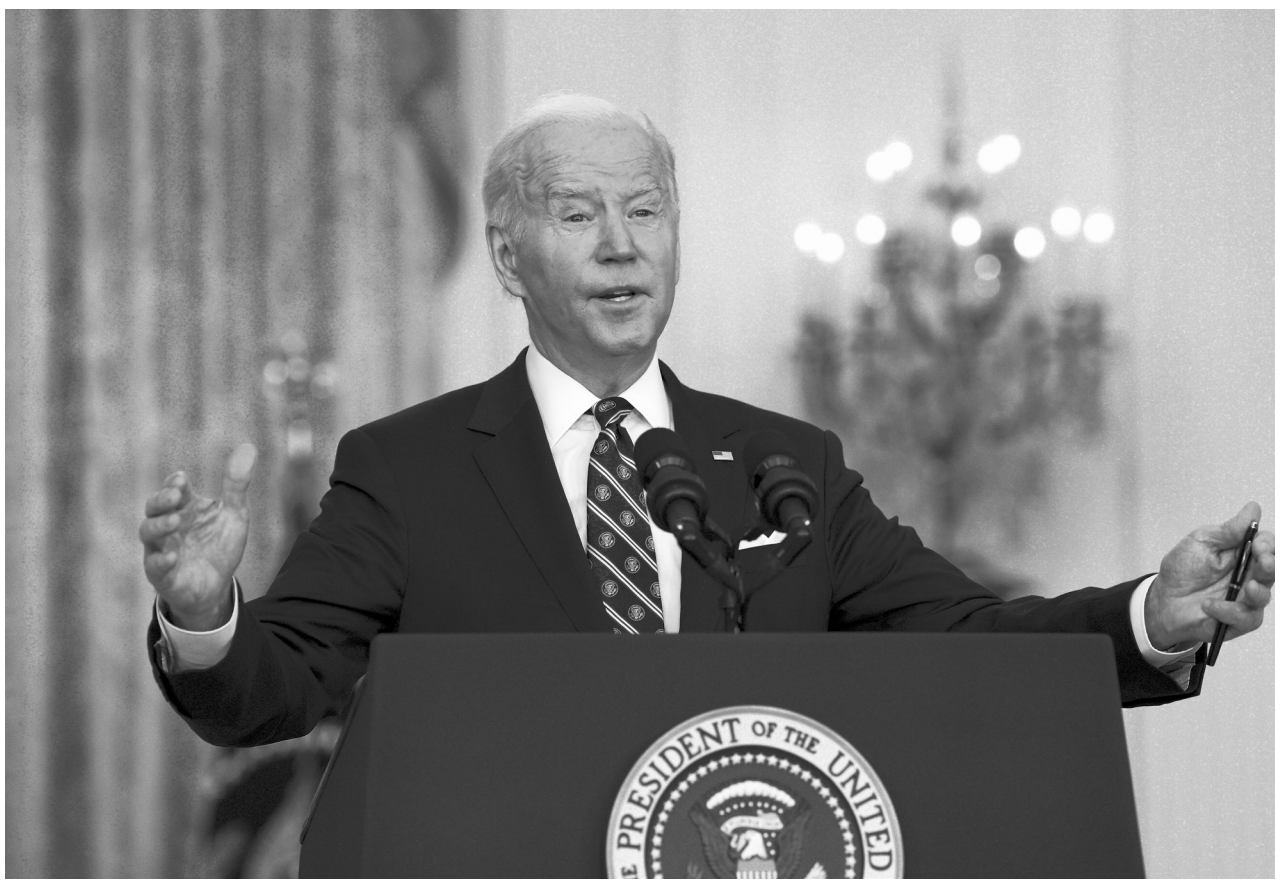
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FROM PAGE ONE

Sanctions

from Page 1



President Biden addresses the nation about the Ukraine crisis Tuesday from the White House. **YURI GRIPAS/ABACA PRESS**

invasion, Biden said, "None of us should be fooled. None of us will be fooled. There is no justification."

Hopes for a diplomatic resolution to the threat of invasion, which U.S. officials have for weeks portrayed as all but inevitable, appeared to evaporate. Secretary of State Antony Blinken canceled plans for a Thursday meeting in Geneva with his Russian counterpart, saying it would not be productive and that Russia's actions indicated Moscow was not serious about a peaceful path to resolving the crisis.

Western nations sought to present a united front, with more than two dozen European Union members unanimously agreeing to levy their own initial set of sanctions against Russian officials. Germany also said it was halting the process of certifying the $11 billion Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia, a lucrative deal long sought by Moscow but criticized by the U.S. for increasing Europe's reliance on Russian energy.

The U.S., meanwhile, moved to cut off Russia's government from Western finance, sanctioning two of its banks and blocking it from trading in its debt on American and European markets. The administration's actions hit civilian leaders in Russia's leadership hierarchy and two Russian banks considered especially close to the Kremlin and Russia's military, with more than $80 billion in assets. That includes freezing all of those bank's assets under U.S. jurisdictions.

Biden, though, did hold back some of the broadest and toughest of the financial penalties contemplated by the U.S., including sanctions that would reinforce the hold that Germany put on any startup of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline; an export ban that would deny Russia access to U.S. high-tech for its industries and military; and sweeping bans that could cripple Russia's ability to do business with the rest of the world.

Biden said he was moving additional U.S. troops to the Baltics, though he described the actions as purely "defensive," asserting, "We have no intention of fighting Russia." The U.S. is sending about 800 infantry troops and 40 attack aircraft to the Baltics and NATO's eastern flank from other locations within Europe, according to a senior defense official. In addition, a contingent of F-35 strike fighters and AH-64 Apache attack helicopters will also be relocated.

Earlier Tuesday, members of Russia's upper house, the Federation Council, voted unanimously to allow Putin to use military force outside the country effectively formalizing a Russian military deployment to the rebel regions, where an eight-year conflict has killed nearly 14,000 people.

Shortly afterward, Putin laid out three conditions to end the crisis that has threatened to plunge Europe back into war, raising the specter of massive casualties, energy shortages across the continent and global economic chaos.

Putin said the crisis could be resolved if Kyiv recognizes Russia's sovereignty over Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014; renounces its bid to join NATO; and partially demilitarizes. The West has decried the annexation of Crimea as a violation of international law and has previously rejected permanently barring Ukraine from NATO.

Asked whether he has sent any Russian troops into Ukraine and how far they could go, Putin responded: "I haven't said that the troops will go there right now." He added that "it's impossible to forecast a specific pattern of action — it will depend on a concrete situation as it takes shape on the ground."

The EU announced initial sanctions aimed at the 351 Russian lawmakers who voted for recognizing separatist regions in Ukraine, as well as 27 other Russian officials and institutions from the defense and banking sectors.

They also sought to limit Moscow's access to EU capital and financial markets.

With tensions rising and a broader conflict looking more likely, the White House began referring to the Russian deployments in the region known as the Donbas as an "invasion" after initially hesitating to use the term a red line that Biden had said would result in severe sanctions.

"We think this is, yes, the beginning of an invasion, Russia's latest invasion into Ukraine," said Jon Finer, principal deputy national security adviser, said on CNN. "An invasion is an invasion, and that is what is underway."

The White House announced limited sanctions targeting the rebel-region Monday evening soon after Putin said he was sending troops to eastern Ukraine. A senior Biden administration official, who briefed reporters about the sanctions targeting the breakaway region noted "that Russia has occupied these regions since 2014" and that "Russian troops moving into Donbas would not itself be a new step."

Western leaders have long warned Moscow would look for cover to invade and just such a pretext appeared to come Monday, when Putin recognized as independent two separatist regions in eastern Ukraine, where government troops have fought Russia-backed rebels. The Kremlin then raised the stakes further by saying that recognition extends even to the large parts now held by Ukrainian forces.

Putin said Russia has recognized the rebel regions' independence in the borders that existed when they made their declaration in 2014 broad territories that extend far beyond the areas now under separatist control and that include the major Azov Sea port of Mariupol. He added, however, that the rebels should eventually negotiate with Ukraine.

Condemnation from around the world was quick. In Washington, lawmakers from both parties in Congress backed an independent Ukraine and vowed continued U.S. support, even as some pushed for swifter and even more severe sanctions on Russia. Senators had been considering a sanctions package against Putin's regime but held off as the White House pursued its strategy.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he would consider breaking diplomatic ties with Russia and Kyiv recalled its ambassador in Moscow.

If Putin pushes further into Ukraine, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg insisted the West would move in lockstep. "If Russia decides once again to use force against Ukraine, there will be even stronger sanctions, even a higher price to pay," he said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the U.K. would slap sanctions on five Russian banks and three wealthy individuals. He warned a full-scale offensive would bring "further powerful sanctions."

Zelenskyy said he was calling up some of the country's military reservists but added there was no need for a full military mobilization.

In an address to the nation, Zelenskyy said his decree applied only to those assigned to the so-called operational reserve, which is typically activated during ongoing hostilities, and covers "a special period of time," without clarifying what that means.

"Today there is no need for a full mobilization. We need to quickly add additional staff to the Ukrainian army and other military formations," he said. National Security and Defense Council Oleksii Danilov said earlier this year that Ukraine can call up to 2.5 million people.

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LOTTERY
Tuesday, Feb. 22

PLAY3 DAY
7 3 4 **WB:** 9

PLAY4 DAY
2 9 5 3 **WB:** 2

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

MONDAY'S LATE NUMBERS
PLAY3 NIGHT
2 4 4 **WB:** 6
PLAY4 NIGHT
0 8 5 5 **WB:** 8
CASH 5
9 14 19 29 32
LUCKY FOR LIFE
10 19 35 43 45 **LB:** 11
Friday's est. Lotto jackpot: $1.1 million
Tonight's est. Powerball jackpot: $45 million

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FROM PAGE ONE

Delayed

from Page 1

inability to prevent second events," Sheth said.

From canceled checkups to untreated symptoms, surveys show delayed care to be a widespread problem. One recent study from The Hartford found that 43% of U.S. workers have put off routine health appointments since the start of the pandemic.

Dr. Adam Steinberg, a vice president for medical affairs at Hartford HealthCare, said delayed care typically falls into one of two categories:

- Delayed routine visits such as mammograms, colonoscopies and annual physicals, leading to health issues that could be treated with relative ease instead becoming more serious problems;
- Delayed care for acute issues that turn out to be strokes, heart attacks or cancer, leading to severe and avoidable long-term consequences.

"If you don't seek care, there can be long-lasting, permanent consequences that can affect your quality of life," Steinberg said.

Early in the pandemic, when hospitals canceled elective procedures and reassigned staff to treat COVID-19 patients, some patients had little choice but to put off appointments and screenings. Since then, providers have largely encouraged people to return to the doctor — but some have remained reluctant.

"I think there's health care fatigue for patients," Steinberg said. "People are tired of talking about their health care, which is something that we can't allow to happen."

Delayed care can be a problem even in non-pandemic times, particularly for those lacking insurance or easy access to care. The pandemic, doctors said, has accelerated the problem.

Sheth said he fears that future research will find major increases in the incidence of chronic illnesses that went under-treated over the past two years.

"Obviously COVID was a big killer, and it's been very serious, but what is a silent killer and what is going to be a relatively increased silent killer are these chronic diseases," he said.

"Somehow we have to figure out how to put an urgency on the care for these diseases, because they existed in large numbers before, and they're going to be in even larger numbers now."

These issues, Sheth said, will be particularly serious in elderly, disabled and otherwise vulnerable people.

With Connecticut's COVID-19 numbers now relatively low following an intense omicron variant surge, physicians are again urging patients to seek care for their medical needs.

Steinberg said his message to patients is that hospitals are safe, with ample capacity, and "that [people] shouldn't delay, that they should seek the care that they need, both preventative and in those urgent and emergency situations."

Even as the pandemic continues to dictate aspects of life for some Connecticut residents, Sheth said it should not, at this point, be affecting when people go to the doctor.

"When it comes to this context, people should go back to pre-pandemic thinking," he said.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Brown

from Page 1

Capitol Ave. last April 30. Brown told the Courant she wanted to travel to Senegal and Gambia to research a docuseries about Senegambian food, and to write a cookbook.

McNary said the docuseries idea, which was still Brown's dream until her diagnosis, sprang from the same inspiration as her Hartford restaurant: to acquaint people with different varieties of Black cuisine.

"She lived in Hartford all her life. Hartford is a small city but a diverse city. The major cuisine of the African diaspora, after soul food, is Jamaican food. But there are so many other flavors," McNary said.

Stella and Mazie's, later renamed Stella's, was the state's only Senegambian restaurant, offering chou, domoda, thieboudienne, yassa, fufu, jollof rice, berbere chicken and pepper fish, among other foods.



Stella Brown in the kitchen of her Senegambian restaurant in Hartford, which she closed last April. **COURANT FILE**

'It all came together'

Until she moved to Houston, Brown was a lifelong Hartford resident.

Brown's daughter Chrystal Clements said that years ago, when Brown told the family she was quitting her job in the state Department of Consumer Protection to go to culinary school, "it was a shock.

"From the outside looking in, she had a great job, 9 to 5, benefits, 401K, something people dream about. She just decided to give it up. Nobody knew what the future would hold for her," Clements said.

Brown attended Lincoln Culinary Institute in Hartford and befriended Edna Carrington, a fellow late-in-life student.

After traveling to Italy on an externship, the two opened Stella and Mazie's in April 2016.

"She wanted to open an eatery. I wanted a catering business. We turned it into both," Carrington said.

Stella and Mazie's had no standing menu. Brown and Carrington made what they felt like every day.

"I got there early every day to do all the baking. Later she would come in with the groceries, something different every day. We didn't think about it a lot. It just all came together every day," she said.

Clements worked at the eatery and shopped with Brown. She saw her impulsive attitude about food.

"She would get up at 5:30 every day, go to Restaurant Depot, and say, 'OK, I'm thinking of fried catfish today.' It was like someone stopping at the grocery store on the way home from work," Clements said.

> ***"I walked in with the kiddos and it was a love fest. After that, I wasn't allowed to come in without my kids. What a light of love Stella was. It went far beyond the food."***
>
> *—Miranda Chapman, a frequent customer*

"It was rarely a long process. She'd just see something and decide right then and there, 'Oh, these are such cool mushrooms, I've got to make something with mushrooms today'," Clements said.

In 2020, Carrington moved to Washington, D.C., and Brown renamed the place Stella's African Eatery.

'A light of love'

Brown's devoted customers loved the restaurant, for its menu surprises and for its personality.

"The food was wonderful and the music was always a vibe but beyond that it was the opportunity to step into a space that helped you to feel whole," Phillip Cloutier said.

"Mrs. Stella wasn't just a business owner or a chef, she was a community elder," Cloutier said.

Miranda Chapman often ate at Stella and Mazie's during pauses in her work day. "Love was present in everything they made," Chapman said.

Her fondness deepened when she had her twin babies.

"I walked in with the kiddos and it was a love fest. After that, I wasn't allowed to come in without my kids," she said. "What a light of love Stella was. It went far beyond the food."

Will Brown, who works across Capitol Avenue at the state budget office, became a regular after his first taste of the food at Stella and Mazie's. Brown said "the food was warm and they were warm.

"My mom was diagnosed with a terminal condition. Every time I would go there, they locked hands with me and said a prayer for my mother. They'd give me food and say, give this to her," Brown said.

Kenell Turner became a regular customer and appreciated Brown's daily vegan options.

"She spoiled me. I would walk in and she'd say 'Try this, this is kelewele.' And I liked it and she put it on the menu," Turner said.

They created a Yelp cooking show together in 2021 for Black History Month. "We did it live for 100 people. We didn't record it. That hurts me. I can't see it again. It's a beautiful memory we both had."

Celebration of life

Carrington said she and Brown never lost contact and she knew about the diagnosis. "I said to her, 'You got this. We got this together. We're still a team. You're going to beat it,' " Carrington said.

Then she heard the news of Brown's passing. "My heart hit the floor. ... I lost my sister, my friend, my business partner. I lost a good part of my life when I lost Stella," she said.

Carrington will come to Hartford for the memorial service, as will many members of Brown's family.

"We're going to celebrate her life," Carrington said. "We had a lot of good times. Those moments we have to hold onto and capture and cherish. We will always be able to go back and laugh at those days."

Bailout

from Page 1

UConn also is seeking an additional $20 million for its medical malpractice trust fund because $20 million had been removed from the fund in order to cover long-ago deficits during the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years. UConn is now seeking to have the money restored.

"In light of recent cases and possible upcoming claims, we are asking the state to replenish the fund with the full $20 million," Liang said. "These funds would not be used for operating expenses but for malpractice claims against the health system. Any health system is required to be covered and prepared for unfortunate and catastrophic events."

The issues were analyzed Tuesday by the legislature's budget-writing appropriations committee, which will deliver recommendations on Lamont's $24.2 billion proposed fiscal plan. Lawmakers intend to make final decisions before the legislative session ends on May 4.

The biggest impact for UConn is that a Superior Court judge ruled last year that a Bristol couple should receive $37.6 million from a medical malpractice lawsuit after an insemination procedure went wrong at the UConn Health Center. One child died in utero in January 2015, while her twin brother will need lifelong medical care after sustaining a brain injury, according to the lawsuit.

Superior Court Judge Mark H. Taylor, a former attorney for the Senate Democrats, wrote in the 107-page ruling that the court "agrees with the vast majority of Superior courts, concluding that a physician providing obstetric care owes a direct duty to a mother to prevent harm to her child during gestation and delivery."

UConn officials said the size of the ruling, which included both economic and non-economic damages, had been unexpected.

While Democrats have often defended the state's only public hospital, Republicans have questioned the high costs.

"The fringe benefits are extremely high," state Rep. Whit Betts told UConn officials Tuesday. "I'm wondering where that expectation came that the state would be taking care of these costs for you."

Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly, of Stratford, who received his law degree from UConn, said that taxpayers cannot afford continually to subsidize the state operation.

"This is exactly the problem with a government-run health care system," Kelly said in an interview.

"It's why we're against the public option, too," he said. "This demonstrates that government can't efficiently manage health care systems, and it's backstopped by the taxpayers' wallet. That's the problem."

He added, "UConn comes back to a population of taxpayers who are already struggling. ... They have some of the highest-paid state employees going back to those struggling taxpayers and asking for more money because they can't manage their enterprise. I'm not even looking for profit out of them. Can you balance your books? Apparently they can't because they keep coming back for more.

"This seems to be a perennial problem," Kelly said.

Besides salaries, the UConn health center employees often have the highest pensions among state employees. UConn continued to pay a medical school professor, Dr. Pierluigi Bigazzi, for at least five months after he was killed in his Burlington home in 2017 in a case in which his wife was charged.

"You would hope people would recognize that somebody is not showing up at the office," Kelly said.

The financial problems at the health center have been a long-running issue with the legislature, dating back at least to 2000 and have continued for the terms of the past four governors. The health center has been bailed out repeatedly as lawmakers say that the fringe benefits for state employees at the John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington are far beyond those at similar hospitals.

Lamont's budget director, Melissa McCaw, said recently that the state has not embarked on a long-term study of the future of the center, but officials have been watching the finances closely.

Overall, UConn Health, which includes the medical and dental schools, has a $1.4 billion annual budget that includes 48% from patient fees; 24% from the state; 8% from research, and about 20% from tuition and other sources. The center is requesting for the state's annual block grant to continue at $133.8 million for the next fiscal year.

UConn's interim president, Radenka Maric, told legislators that she analyzes the numbers on fringe benefits on a regular basis.

"I look at the numbers every day, and they are not encouraging — so we need help," she said.

In April 2021, UConn Health asked the legislature during a public hearing for another bailout of $54 million, $59 million and $61 million over the next three fiscal years. The issue was not completely resolved by the time the legislative session ended.

The money would be used to cover the increased costs for pensions and health care, officials said.

At the peak of the pandemic in March and April 2020, UConn Health's net patient revenue was down by $1 million per day as all elective surgeries were postponed and fewer patients arrived. UConn Health lost $70 million in net patient revenue during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020 due to the pandemic.

Since then, however, the health center has rebounded sharply as patients returned for surgery and other visits. After the biggest drops last April for patient revenue, some days at the health center were already back up to 100% in June and July 2020, officials said.

Liang said he also has concerns about a large wave of consolidations in which two entities — Hartford Healthcare and Yale New Haven Health — have formed large corporations that are purchasing smaller hospitals around the state.

"I have concern about the healthcare consolidation," Liang said.

"Wearing my hat as the dean of the medical school, I'm afraid it's going to have a negative impact on the quality of the medical student education. We have medical students training in both Manchester and Waterbury hospitals. We want to make sure if this acquisition goes through our students' education is not going to be compromised — both qualitatively and quantitatively."

Liang added, "The access of the local community to quality, specialty care — not just primary care — at the local hospital, I think, might be compromised. There may be a tendency to send patients to another town or city to get the specialty care. Also, I'm not a health care economist, but if the patients migrate out of the local community, I think the jobs might follow, as well. I have concerns about the local community's jobs."

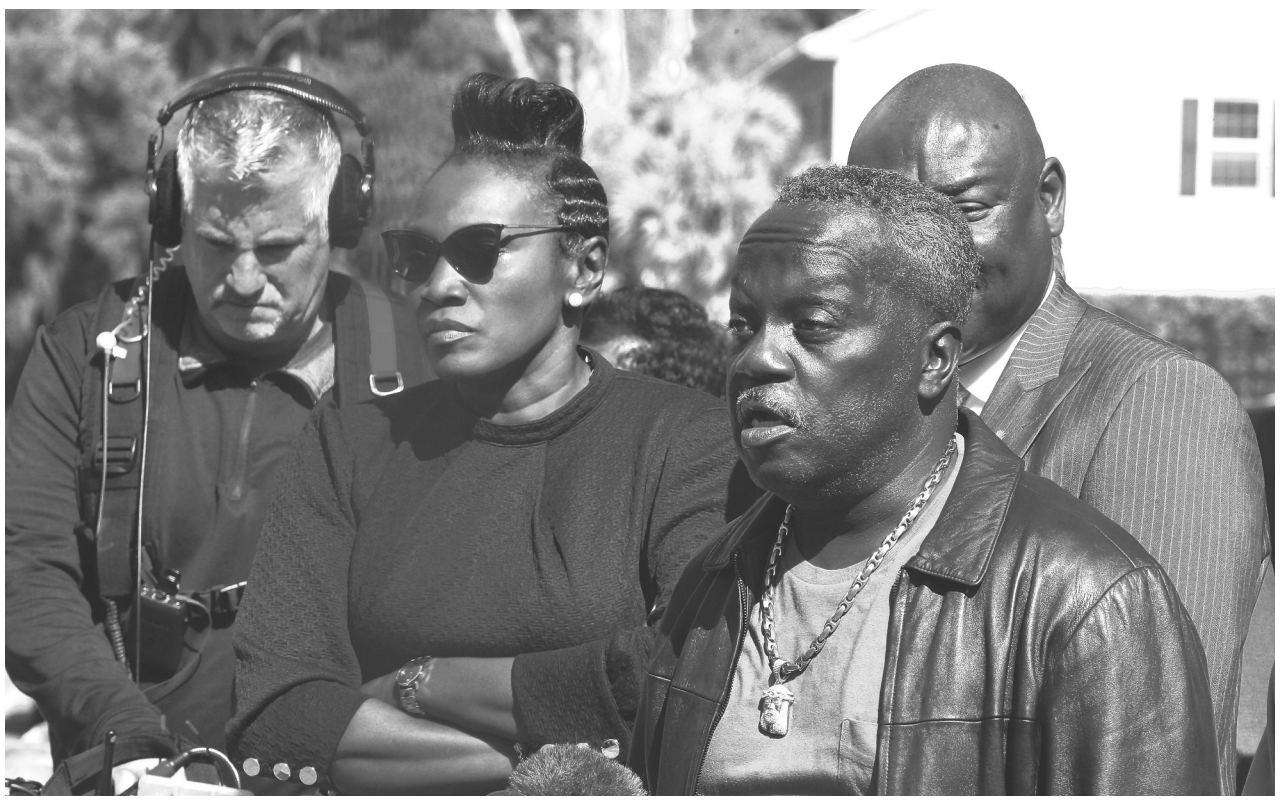
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3 guilty in Arbery hate crimes trial

Family says verdict proves defendants motivated by racism

By Russ Bynum
Associated Press



Ahmaud Arbery's parents, Wanda Cooper-Jones and Marcus Arbery, outside the courthouse in Brunswick, Ga. **LEWIS LEVINE/AP**



Travis McMichael, left, William Bryan and Gregory McMichael

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — The three white men convicted of murder in Ahmaud Arbery's fatal shooting were found guilty of federal hate crimes Tuesday, validating the declarations of family members and civil rights activists who said they had no doubt the unarmed man was chased and killed because he was Black.

The verdict — handed down one day before the second anniversary of Arbery's death on Feb. 23, 2020 — was symbolic, coming just months after all three defendants were convicted of murder in a Georgia state court and sentenced to life in prison.

But family and community members viewed the hate crimes trial as an important statement. The case also became part of a larger national reckoning on racial injustice after graphic video of Arbery's killing leaked online.

"Ahmaud will continue to rest in peace. But he will now begin to rest in power," Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, told reporters outside the courthouse.

Arbery's father, Marcus Arbery Sr., bowed his head and shook his fists in quiet celebration as the guilty verdicts were read in court. He then pressed his hands together in front of his face as if saying a silent prayer.

Arbery Sr. and Cooper-Jones emerged from the courthouse holding hands with their attorney Ben Crump, then raised their clasped hands to cheers from supporters.

But Cooper-Jones did not describe the outcome as a victory.

"We as a family will never get victory because Ahmaud is gone forever," she said.

Arbery Sr. noted that his son used to call every day, even if just to tell his family that he loved them.

"Ahmaud was a kid you can't replace, because of the heart he had," he said. "I'm struggling with that every day," he said. "It hurts me every day."

Defendants Greg and Travis McMichael sat stoically at the defense table as the guilty verdicts were read. When called one-at-a-time before the judge to discuss next steps in their cases, the father and son answered with hushed voices.

The McMichaels and their neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan, were also found guilty of attempted kidnapping, and the McMichaels were also convicted of the use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

Weeks prior to the trial, the McMichaels had both agreed to enter guilty pleas to the hate crimes in exchange for being able to serve their sentences in federal, rather than state prison. Judge Lisa Godbey Wood rejected the deal, however, saying it would tie her hands at sentencing, and after Arbery's family vehemently opposed it.

"What we got today, we wouldn't have gotten if it wasn't for the fight by the family for Ahmaud," Cooper-Jones said Tuesday, reiterating her anger at Justice Department prosecutors, who she said "chose to ignore the family's cry."

The facts of the case were not disputed during the hate crimes trial.

The McMichaels grabbed guns and jumped in a pickup to pursue Arbery after seeing him running in their neighborhood outside the port city of Brunswick. Bryan joined the pursuit in his own pickup and recorded the cellphone video that later leaked online.

To back the hate crime charges, prosecutors showed roughly two dozen text messages and social media posts in which Travis McMichael and Bryan used racist slurs and made derogatory comments about Black people. The FBI wasn't able to access Greg McMichael's phone because it was encrypted.

In 2018, Travis McMichael commented on a Facebook video of a Black man playing a prank on a white person: "I'd kill that f---ing" (N-word)."

A woman who served under Travis McMichael in the Coast Guard a decade ago said he directed a racial slur at her after learning she'd dated a Black man. Another woman testified Greg McMichael had ranted in 2015 when she remarked on the death of civil rights activist Julian Bond, saying, "All those Blacks are nothing but trouble."

Crump remarked after the verdict that "for many of us, there was never any doubt that Greg McMichael, Travis McMichael, and William Bryan targeted Ahmaud because of his skin color."

"But because of indisputable video evidence, disgusting messages sent by the defendants, and witness testimony, their hate was revealed to the world and the jury," he said. "We hope and demand that the severity of their crimes are reflected in the sentencing."

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said the verdict "makes clear that the Justice Department will continue to use every resource at its disposal to confront unlawful acts of hate and to hold accountable those who perpetrate them."

Defense attorneys said the McMichaels and Bryan didn't chase and kill Arbery because of his race but acted on the earnest, though erroneous, suspicion that Arbery had committed crimes in their neighborhood.

Kremlin pushes rationale for a possible invasion

Russian TV reports painting US-backed Ukraine as aggressor

By Anton Troianovski
The New York Times



Residents who left separatist-held parts of Ukraine tune into President Vladimir Putin's speech Monday from their hotel room in Taganrog, Russia. **SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

MOSCOW — For months, as Washington warned of a looming Russian invasion of Ukraine, Russia's powerful propaganda machine dismissed and parodied talk of war.

Then, last weekend, everything changed.

From the occupied territory of Ukraine to the halls of the Kremlin, the rationale for a possible invasion was put into place, piece by piece, and presented to the Russian public in an unrelenting push on state television.

In the last few days, millions of Russians watching television have seen a steady narrative featuring booms and flashes of artillery fire, blurred-out footage of human remains, women and children, crying and fleeing, a separatist appeal to the president and an emergency meeting of President Vladimir Putin's Security Council and his dramatic address to the nation.

By Tuesday morning, the breakfast news on state-run Channel 1 was announcing a "historic moment."

"Eight years of fear have ended," the announcer declared, a reference to the residents of separatist-occupied eastern Ukraine who, in the Kremlin's unfounded claims, are being subjected to "genocide" by Ukrainian forces.

Still, it is too soon to tell how most Russians would react to Putin's moves; so far, there is none of the widespread jubilation that accompanied his annexation of Crimea in 2014. On Tuesday, as Russian state media claimed that Ukraine was firing at the Russian-backed separatist regions whose independence Putin recognized Monday, it remained unclear how far the Kremlin would go in escalating the conflict.

"Hundreds and soon, tens of thousands of Ukrainians and Russian citizens may die because of Putin," Alexei Navalny, the imprisoned opposition leader, posted on social media. "Sure, he won't let Ukraine develop and will drag it into a swamp, but Russia will pay the same price."

Lawmakers in the lower house of Parliament, the State Duma, hinted Tuesday that the Kremlin's campaign against the pro-Western government of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine would not end with Putin's recognition of the separatist territories in eastern Ukraine's Donbas region.

One nationalist deputy, Andrei Lugovoi, said he hoped that the recognition marked "the beginning of the return of all Ukraine to its historical bosom." Another, Sergei Mironov, ripped into Zelenskyy as a "coward, liar and scoundrel."

The angry, righteous tone was a continuation of the flurry of weekend news reports that aimed to paint a U.S.-backed Ukraine as the aggressor — even though it insists it has no plans to mount an offensive against the separatist-held territories. State media seized upon Western warnings of a possible Russian invasion to paint the United States and its allies as warmongers.

On the marquee weekly news show on Russian state television, the host, Dmitri Kiselyov, on Sunday reeled off the international leaders he insisted could profit from war: Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain, President Emmanuel Macron of France and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey.

"Everything is very serious," Kiselyov warned. "Ukraine is literally being dragged into war with Russia."

On Monday, Russian media broadcast separatist claims of an escalating assault by Ukrainian forces and broadcast an array of unsubstantiated claims — that Ukraine was shelling communications, bridges, a water filtration station and other infrastructure targets. Russian state television reported from the separatist-held city of Donetsk that Ukraine had sent saboteurs behind separatist lines.

Ukrainian officials insisted their military was not preparing an assault against Donetsk and said the separatists were shelling their own territory.

Oleksiy Danilov, a senior Ukrainian security official, warned Monday that Russia was waging a furious disinformation war.

"A great, powerful information provocation is being waged against our state," Danilov said. "But it is necessary to trust only official information."

Until recently, it appeared that many Russians had tuned out talk of an impending war. Pollsters say that while the possibility of war is one of Russians' greatest fears, no anti-war movement has emerged in recent weeks because many simply cannot imagine it or see how they can influence any decisions.

Russians "feel they can't influence the process at all," said Alexandra Arkhipova, a Moscow social anthropologist, who found that there had been relatively little discussion of a possible war with Ukraine online before the propaganda barrage of recent days. "So they try to avoid it."



The Supreme Court said it would look only at the free speech issue in the Colorado case. **CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY**

High court takes case on not serving gay couples

By Jessica Gresko
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday has agreed to hear a clash involving religion and the rights of LGBTQ people in the case of a Colorado web designer who says her religious beliefs prevent her from offering wedding website designs to gay couples.

Lorie Smith, a Denver-area designer, offers graphic and website design services and wants to expand to wedding website services, but she says her Christian beliefs would lead her to decline any request from a same-sex couple to design a wedding website. She also wants to post a statement on her website about her beliefs.

Doing those things, however, would run afoul of a Colorado anti-discrimination law. Smith had argued the law violates her free speech and religious rights.

The Supreme Court said it would look only at the free speech issue. It said it would decide whether a law that requires an artist to speak or stay silent violates the free speech clause of the First Amendment. The case is expected to be argued in the fall.

Smith's attorney, Kristen Waggoner, said in a statement after the court agreed to hear the case that "Colorado has weaponized its law to silence speech it disagrees with, to compel speech it approves of, and to punish anyone who dares to dissent."

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser said the Supreme Court has consistently held that anti-discrimination laws like the one in his state apply to all businesses selling goods and services.

"Companies cannot turn away LGBT customers just because of who they are," Weiser said in an emailed statement. "We will vigorously defend Colorado's laws."

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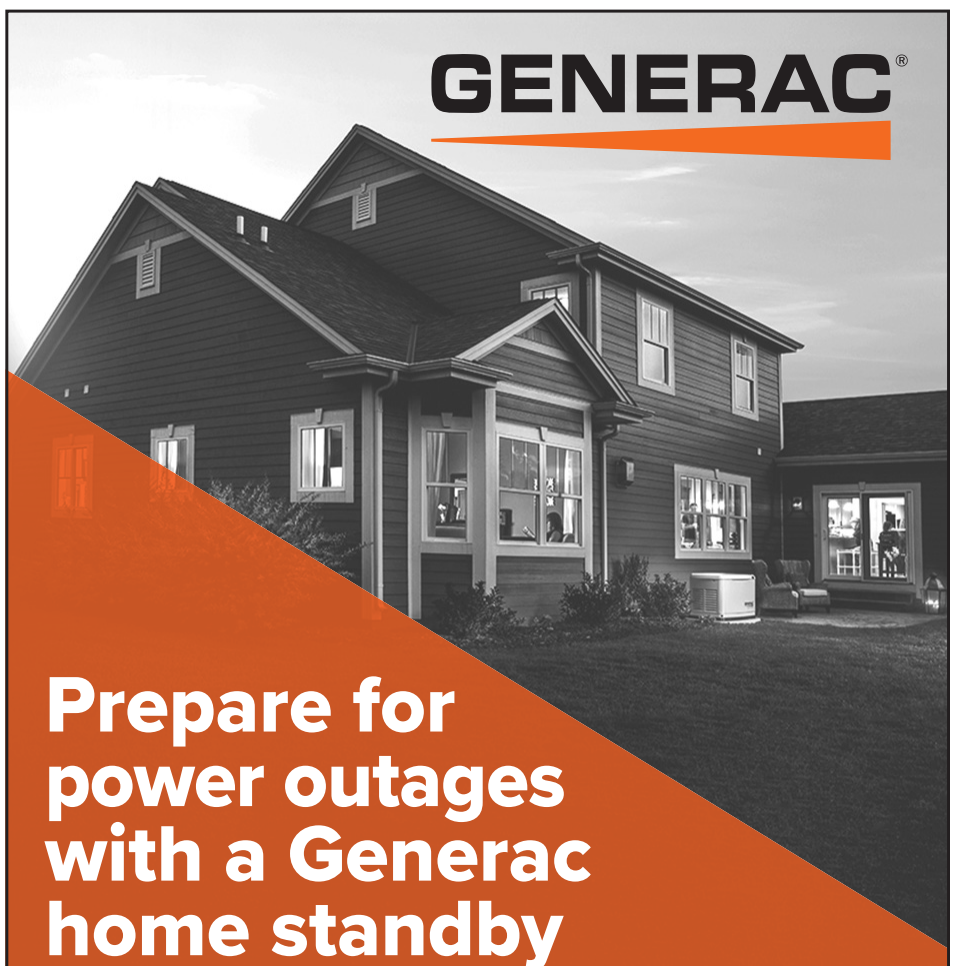
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WORLD & NATION

Diversity programs deal with uncertain future

Schools hit pause due to critical race theory pushback

By Carolyn Thompson and Heather Hollingsworth
Associated Press



As her Colorado school district's equity director, Alexis Knox-Miller thought the work she and a volunteer team were doing was on solid ground. But after new school board members expressed doubts, the team was disbanded. **DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP**

Conservative takeovers of local school boards have already altered lessons on race and social injustice in many classrooms. Now some districts are finding their broader efforts on diversity, equity and inclusion are also being challenged.

As her Colorado school district's equity director, Alexis Knox-Miller thought the work she and a volunteer team were doing was on solid ground, especially with an audit in hand that detailed where the district was falling short in making sure all students had the same opportunities.

But in December, Knox-Miller reluctantly disbanded the equity leadership team after more than a year of meetings. New conservative members had won a majority on the school board after voicing doubts about the work, and she worried the efforts might not lead anywhere.

The new board says it will take up the issue in the spring.

"Around the time that the equity audit was being released, I realized that the tide had changed around diversity, equity and inclusion efforts," Knox-Miller said. "People were conflating the definition of equity with critical race theory, and the absurd accusations that we were teaching critical race theory in classrooms to kindergartners began."

Since issues of diversity, equity and inclusion can thread their way through every part of a school system, the debate carries implications for hiring and spending.

In some districts, proposals aimed at making schools more welcoming places for students from diverse backgrounds have been reversed as a result of turnover on school boards, while work elsewhere faces a chill from acrimonious debate around topics that have been mislabeled as critical race theory.

School administrators say critical race theory, a scholarly theory that centers on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation's institutions, is not taught in K-12 schools. But that has done little to sway opponents who assert that school systems are misspending money, perpetuating divisions and shaming white children by pursuing initiatives they view as critical race theory in disguise.

In a political climate that had escalated fights about pandemic mask and vaccine requirements, divisions are taking a toll, said Dan Domenech, executive director of the School Superintendents Association.

"Even in districts that aren't threatened as much, they're thinking twice about what they say and what they do," Domenech said.

Colorado Springs School District 11, a large and diverse system of 26,000 students where Knox-Miller works, was the first in its area to adopt a formal equity policy, unanimously approving it May 27, 2020, two days after the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota sparked national reflection on race and social justice issues in and out of schools.

The policy acknowledged gaps in achievement and opportunities among marginalized student groups and recognized "the impact of systemic inequities on teaching and learning."

Part of Knox-Miller's work involved commissioning an audit by the American Institutes for Research. It found that schools with high concentrations of special education students, English language learners, students living in poverty and students of color were scoring measurably below other schools.

Critics questioned the findings and the way they were presented, at a series of meetings called "equity cafes" that some said limited full discussions. Conservative candidates set their sights on the school board, with three winning seats in the November election.

Knox-Miller saw no choice but to stand down.

Board President Parth Melpakam said by email that the new board had yet to discuss the issue but plans to in the spring.

In Pennridge, Pennsylvania, the school district's diversity, equity and inclusion initiative was put on hold last year after it became a flashpoint in debates that touched also on COVID-19 safety protocols.

Democrat Adrienne King, who helped design the plan, ran for a seat on the school board and lost in November. Five Republicans won after running against the initiative, which they had called divisive. The program's future remains unclear.

The district's diversity, equity and inclusion guidebook, no longer visible on the district's website, proposed ways to recruit diverse job candidates and improve training for teachers, and encouraged lessons that invite students to reflect on their culture and history.

The initiative could have helped prevent unnecessarily painful experiences, King said, like when a white second grader, without meaning to hurt anyone's feelings, called King's daughter, who is Black, a slave after learning about Frederick Douglass.

"In a second grade mind, it was just, 'Oh, I learned this new fact. You're Black, Frederick Douglass was Black. You must be a slave,'" she said.

Neither the board's president nor school administrators responded to requests for comment.

The Arlington, Virginia-based group Parents Defending Education is critical of diversity, equity and inclusion programming, citing on its website a goal of "fighting indoctrination in the classroom."

"What they have become are Trojan horses for all of these divisive programs that push really illiberal ideas like segregated groups based on race, privilege walks, privilege bingo," said Asra Nomani, the organization's vice president for strategy and investigations.

In Southlake, Texas, the newly elected conservative majority on the Carroll Independent School District's board killed a proposed cultural competency action plan in December and disbanded the suburban Dallas district's diversity council as part of a legal settlement.

The plan had been in the works since a 2018 video showed students in the mostly white district chanting a racial slur at a party after the school's homecoming celebration. A second video of students using the slur emerged in 2019.

"We don't have a racism problem in Southlake. If children behave improperly, then they should be disciplined," Tim O'Hare, founder of a political action committee to fund conservative candidates and defeat the plan, told The Texan.

Still, other initiatives continue as planned.

An equity program that schools in Clayton County, Georgia, undertook more than a year ago was designed to keep politics and emotions out of it, Superintendent Morcease Beasley said. A task force has undertaken a "deep dive" into the district's programming that will use data to drive policy changes.

"Equity is not about emotions. Equity is about what the data tells us and ensuring that we allow the data to inform our decisions," he said.

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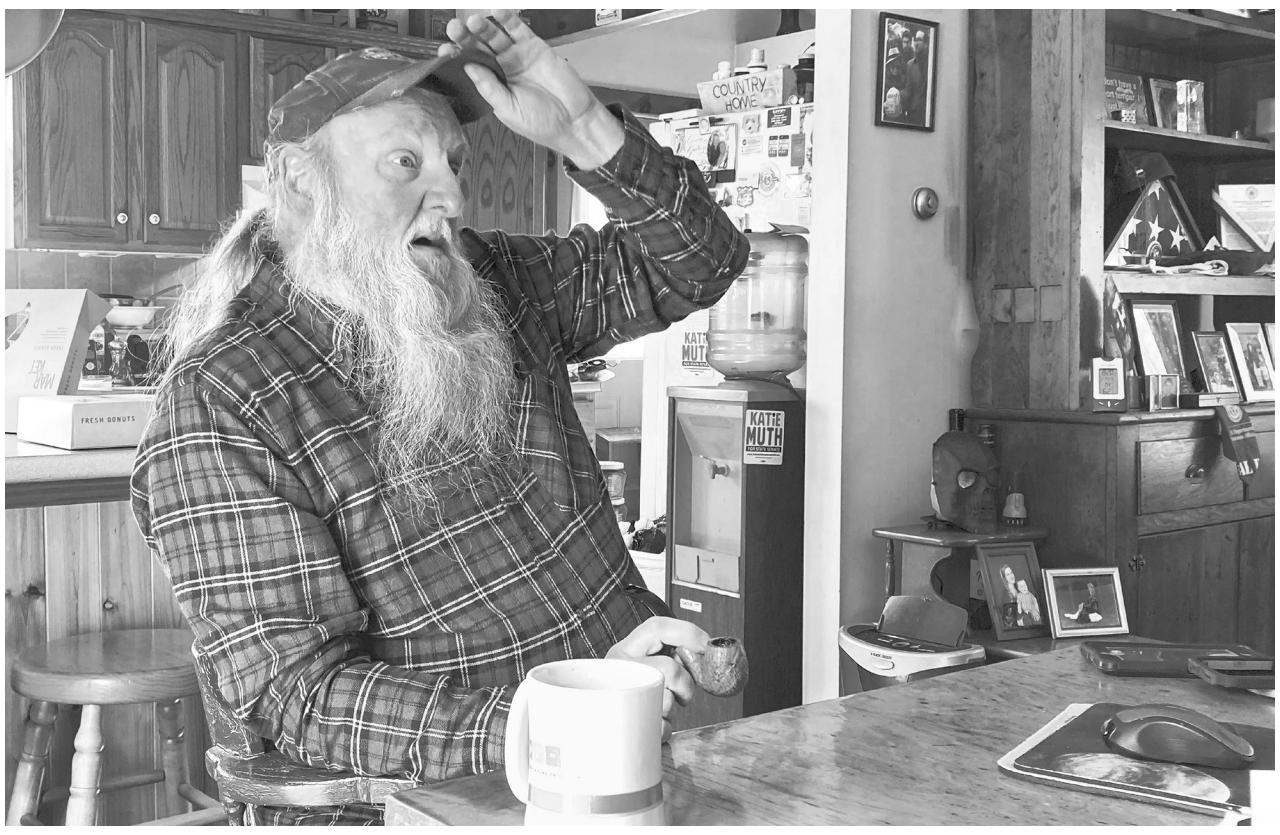
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Pa. fracking case offers no easy fix

State seeks charges against driller while pushing to settle

By Michael Rubinkam
Associated Press



Ray Kemble talks about water issues earlier this month at his home in Dimock, Pennsylvania. **MIKE RUBINKAM/AP**

DIMOCK, Pa. — Meeting with a man whose well water has been polluted for years, officials in the Pennsylvania attorney general's office asked him whether he'd consider accepting a treatment system from the gas driller charged with fouling his aquifer.

Not a chance, Ray Kemble told them.

"Are you going to drink and bathe in it?" Kemble asked the prosecutor and her colleague, a special agent, according to a recording of the conversation obtained by The Associated Press. "Are you two going to come here and live in this house on that system for a month and use that water?"

The officials demurred.

One of the best-known pollution cases ever to emerge from the U.S. drilling and fracking boom has entered a difficult new phase as prosecutors pursue criminal charges against the state's most prolific gas driller — and push for a settlement they say could yield more significant benefits for homeowners than a conviction.

But the option prosecutors recently discussed has put them at odds with some residents who reject individual water treatment systems as inadequate and unworkable.

These residents want to be hooked up to public water — itself a controversial idea in their rural community, one that state environmental officials talked up more than a decade ago but ultimately abandoned under legal threat from the driller and local officials.

The residents' opposition to treatment systems illustrates the delicacy of the attorney general's task in Dimock, a place synonymous with the fracking debate, where acrimony and distrust are the default after nearly 14 years of bad water and broken promises to fix it.

It was an exploding water well that first aroused public attention in the previously anonymous patchwork of homes and farms about 150 miles north of Philadelphia. Around that time, residents began reporting their well water was making them sick with symptoms including vomiting, dizziness and rashes.

Anti-drilling celebrities and documentary filmmakers descended, holding Dimock up as an example of natural gas industry malfeasance in the nation's No. 2 gas-producing state.

Industry backers, meanwhile, touted the economic benefits of cheap gas and accused green groups of greatly exaggerating the threat, even as state regulators concluded that Texas-based Cabot Oil & Gas had fouled Dimock's groundwater.

The hoopla eventually died down, but Dimock's water remained polluted.

Fresh contamination cases have been reported as recently as December.

The state's criminal case against the driller dates to 2020, when Attorney General Josh Shapiro — a Democrat now running for governor — charged Cabot with violating the law by allowing methane from the company's faulty gas wells to escape into drinking-water aquifers in Dimock and nearby communities.

Shapiro's spokesperson, Jacklin Rhoads, declined to answer questions about the "existence or substance of any discussions" with the company regarding a settlement.

But she said the state's criminal environmental laws offer "limited tools" for holding polluters accountable.

The penalty for a conviction under the state's Clean Streams Law is a maximum $50,000 fine for each violation.

"While a settlement has the potential to deliver more for victims than the penalties of a guilty verdict, our goal is to resolve the case — through trial or through settlement — in a way that maximizes the restoration and protection of clean water for residents," Rhoads said.

A company spokesperson declined to comment, citing the "active legal matter." The company has long defended its record and denied responsibility for the contamination of Dimock's groundwater.

It's not clear if treatment systems remain under consideration, given the pushback from residents, but Kemble has his reasons for being skeptical.

In 2010, after discarding their plan to connect residents to public water, state environmental officials entered into a settlement with the company. Cabot offered to install individual water filtration systems, as well as a monetary award equal to twice the tax value of each resident's home.

The agreement, struck without residents' input or consent, infuriated those who had made it clear they did not trust Cabot with their water. But many residents took the money — and the treatment systems.

Some worked well, others were prone to breaking down, and all required costly upkeep, according to Joe Nally, who installed and maintained dozens of the systems for Cabot and other drilling companies.

"It was absolutely a maintenance issue with them," said Nally, who left the industry years ago.

The system Cabot installed at Tim and Deb Maye's house now sits, disused, in a shed outside their home.

Handwritten logs show hundreds of visits by contractors over the years as the elaborate setup of tanks, filters and control panels broke down, leaked and failed to remove bacteria.

Eventually, the DEP allowed Cabot to hand financial responsibility for repairs and maintenance to the Mayes. The couple said they never agreed to that. The system never worked right, they said.

The Mayes now use their untreated well water for bathing and flushing toilets, and bottled water for everything else.

"This was supposed to be our forever home," said Deb Maye, who had moved with her family to Dimock to escape the bustle of the Philadelphia suburbs. "And the DEP and the gas company ruined it."

Until Feb. 11, when he left state employment, Scott Perry was a DEP deputy secretary and longtime head of the agency's oil and gas division. He acknowledged in a late January interview that treatment systems "did not work perfectly right out of the gate." But he said they "absolutely do work," adding some residents are satisfied.

"All of the homeowners were provided with two times the value of their home so that they could attend to their drinking water needs in the matter they best see fit. And several of them have chosen to not maintain their systems, and that's unfortunate," Perry said.

He said the water line his agency once touted as a permanent fix couldn't have been built, given the political, logistical and legal realities of the day, and asserted that Dimock's aquifer is healing even as Coterra remains banned from drilling in a part of the township.

"We will not allow the oil and gas industry to leave a legacy of polluted groundwater," he said.


All residents of Hong Kong will undergo mandatory testing for COVID-19 three times in March. Above, people line up to be tested for the virus Tuesday in the Chinese city. **KIN CHEUNG/AP**

Hong Kong issues order for mandatory COVID-19 tests

By Zen Soo and Alice Fung
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong will test its entire population of 7.5 million people for COVID-19 in March, the city's leader said Tuesday, as it grapples with its worst outbreak driven by the omicron variant.

The population will be tested three times in March, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam said.

She said testing capacity will be boosted to 1 million a day or more.

"Since we have a population of some 7 million people, testing will take about seven days," she said.

Hong Kong has reported about 5,000 new daily infections since Feb. 15, with the cases threatening to overwhelm its health care system.

Since the current surge began at the start of 2022, the city has recorded nearly 54,000 cases and 145 deaths.

The order for citywide testing comes after mainland Chinese authorities dispatched epidemiologists, health workers and other medical resources last week to help contain the outbreak in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Hong Kong has largely aligned itself with mainland China's "zero-COVID-19" policy, which aims to totally stamp out outbreaks, even as many other countries are shifting their approach to living with the virus.

Lockdowns of entire cities have been imposed in a number of areas of the mainland, but Lam said no such measure is currently being considered in Hong Kong because it is "not realistic."

She also denied that the central Chinese government is giving instructions to Hong Kong on how to handle the epidemic.

The "zero-COVID-19" strategy means that Hong Kong authorities often take measures such as locking down residential estates for mass testing when positive cases are detected, imposing strict quarantine requirements on travelers and ordering the shuttering of businesses.

The rapid surge of infections in the city has threatened to overwhelm its health care system.

Health officials said last week that hospitals were already at 90% of capacity and isolation facilities were full.

People who test positive for the virus in Hong Kong must either be admitted to a hospital or a quarantine facility.

Lam acknowledged Tuesday that the city's isolation facilities are "severely inadequate" and that it is "working very hard with the full support of the central authorities" to build more.

Current social-distancing measures, such as a ban on dining at restaurants after 6 p.m. and the closure of businesses such as gyms and bars, will be extended until April 20.

Lam said the city hopes to boost its vaccination rate to 90% by early March.

Other measures announced Tuesday include ending the school year early and moving the normal July-August summer holidays forward to March and April so that schools can be turned into facilities for testing, isolation and vaccination.

Flight bans from countries classified as high risk, including Britain and the U.S., will be extended to April 20.

Canada freezing hundreds of accounts tied to protests

By Ian Austen
The New York Times


A trucker departs a protest over pandemic health rules and the Canadian government Feb. 14 in Ottawa, Ontario. Many protesters are facing financial scrutiny. **ED JONES /GETTY-AFP**

OTTAWA, Ontario — With the capital's streets cleared of the heavy trucks and cars that made some of them impassable for three weeks of protest, Canadian authorities are turning their scrutiny to the finances of those behind the chaos.

The protesters may have been routed, Michael Duheme, deputy commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for federal policing, said after Ottawa's streets were reclaimed over the weekend, but police need to "continue to choke off financial support."

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau decided a week ago to invoke his country's Emergencies Act for the first time in Canadian history to quell the unrest, it gave police sweeping new powers to go after the finances of protesters. Some may now face long-term consequences.

But for one protest organizer who was arrested last week, the effect was more immediate.

Appearing before a judge Tuesday, the organizer, Tamara Lich, told the court she had been frozen out of all of her accounts and could not come up with the nearly $4,000 surety requested by prosecutors. The court denied bail.

About the time the bail hearing was taking place, lawmakers in the Canadian Senate began debate over Trudeau's Emergencies Act order. The previous evening, overcoming opposition from Conservative members of Parliament, Trudeau persuaded the House of Commons to endorse his decision.

Since the declaration was made, police have been turning over the names of organizers and people who actively blocked Ottawa's roads with their trucks and other vehicles during the blockade, which was set off by opposition to the government's pandemic restrictions.

As of Sunday, the national police force said in a statement, 219 "financial products" had been frozen, 253 Bitcoin addresses related to protesters and organizers had been given to virtual currency exchange operators, and a bank had frozen about $3 million held by a payment processor.

All of the accounts that have been frozen will remain so for up to 30 days from Feb. 14, the date of the national emergency declaration. But the government could extend or shorten that period.

Leah West, a professor specializing in national security law at Carleton University in Ottawa, said it may be possible that other actions would be taken to seize funds. Regardless, she said, there will most likely be lasting effects for the protesters and organizers when it comes to their finances.

"Down the road," West said, "banks may decide that these are not people they want to provide financial services to because they've engaged in illegal activity. Would someone want to give you a mortgage if you used your house to deal drugs? Probably not."

In the face of the police operation that began clearing the streets Friday, many protesters drove away to avoid being arrested and having their vehicles seized. By Monday morning, police had arrested 196 people and accused them of either organizing the blockade or participating in it, and towed 115 vehicles. In the initial days of the protest, there were more than 400 vehicles occupying downtown streets.

Some of the protesters did not go far. After leaving the capital, one small group set up a new camp Sunday across from a truck stop on a highway about 62 miles east of Ottawa.

Trudeau told the House of Commons that there were two other small groups outside the city.

Ottawa's acting police chief, Steve Bell, said last week that police would continue to work "for months" to track down protest participants.

"If you are involved in this protest, we will actively look to identify you and follow up with financial sanctions and criminal charges," Bell said.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

WHO: New weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths are dropping

From news services

GENEVA — The number of new coronavirus cases around the world fell 21% in the last week, marking the third consecutive week that COVID-19 cases have dropped, the World Health Organization said Tuesday.

In the U.N. health agency's weekly pandemic report, WHO said there were more than 12 million new coronavirus infections last week. The number of new COVID-19 deaths fell 8% to about 67,000 worldwide, the first time that weekly deaths have fallen since early January.

The Western Pacific was the only region that saw an increase in COVID-19 cases, with a 29% jump, while the number of infections elsewhere dropped significantly.

The number of new deaths also rose in the Western Pacific and Africa while falling everywhere else.

The highest number of new COVID-19 cases were seen in Russia, Germany, Brazil, the U.S. and South Korea.

WHO said omicron remains the overwhelmingly dominant variant worldwide, accounting for more than 99% of sequences shared with the world's biggest virus database.

WHO also reported that available vaccine evidence shows that "booster vaccination substantially improves (vaccine effectiveness)," against the omicron variant, but said more details are still needed on how long such protection lasts.

Scientists, however, have warned that it's still possible that more transmissible and deadly variants of COVID-19 could still emerge if the virus is allowed to spread uncontrolled.

WHO's Europe chief Dr. Hans Kluge says the region is now entering a "plausible endgame" for the virus and said there is now a "singular opportunity" for authorities to end the acute phase of the pandemic.

Epstein lawsuit: The Supreme Court is leaving in place a decision throwing out a lawsuit filed by a woman who accused billionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein of sexually abusing her when she was a child.

Courtney Wild's lawsuit claimed Florida federal prosecutors failed to consult victims more than a decade ago when reaching a secret plea deal with Epstein, who died in jail in New York in 2019.

The high court said Tuesday it would not consider the case. As is typical, the court did not comment in turning away the case, which was included on a list of those the court said it would not take. The Biden administration had urged the justices not to hear the case.

A three-judge panel of the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 against Wild in April 2020, saying a lower court had correctly thrown out her lawsuit.

High court denies Trump: The U.S. Supreme Court has formally rejected President Donald Trump's effort to block release of documents from his administration to the House Jan. 6 Select Committee, bringing a formal end to his executive privilege claims in connection with the records.

The decision follows the court's Jan. 19 order that led the National Archives, which legally holds presidential records, to hand them over to the House of Representatives as the court weighed whether to accept Trump's appeal.



Reporting for duty: Election officials scan a duty chart showing their assigned polling stations on Tuesday in Lucknow, India. The fourth phase of polling in Uttar Pradesh state, a largely impoverished part of northern India, is scheduled for Wednesday. The election is being viewed as a referendum on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's eight years in office. **RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/AP**

The House committee has said it needs visitor logs, phone records, speech drafts and other written records to understand what role Trump may have played in instigating the violence that unfolded on Jan. 6, 2021, when his supporters stormed the Capitol in an attempt to prevent Congress from formally certifying Joe Biden's 2020 presidential election.

Trump sued to prevent the dissemination of the records after President Biden determined last year that they could be released.

Queen's cancellations: Queen Elizabeth II canceled scheduled online engagements Tuesday because she is still experiencing mild cold-like symptoms after testing positive for COVID-19, Buckingham Palace said.

The 95-year-old monarch "has decided not to undertake her planned virtual engagements today, but will continue with light duties," a palace spokesman said.

Officials confirmed Sunday that the queen tested positive for COVID-19. The diagnosis prompted concern and get-well wishes from across Britain's political spectrum for the queen, the country's longest-reigning monarch.

The palace said Sunday that Elizabeth, who has been fully vaccinated and had a booster shot.

The queen reached the milestone of 70 years on the throne Feb. 6.

Mich. school shooting: The manager of a juvenile detention center says she would have concerns if a 15-year-old charged with killing four fellow students in his Michigan high school were incarcerated at her facility.

Children's Village manager Heather Calcaterra testified Tuesday during a hearing to decide whether Ethan Crumbley will be moved to the juvenile facility from an adult jail.

"This was a devastating situation and we don't know that the defendant's presence on our campus, in the classrooms, on the unit, how that may trigger or impact other young people," Calcaterra said. "I would also be concerned about his safety. I do not know if he will be a target."

Crumbley is charged as an adult with first-degree murder, assault with intent to murder, terrorism and gun charges in the Nov. 30 shooting at Oxford High School, about 30 miles north of Detroit.

In addition to the four students slain, six other students and a teacher were wounded.

Last month, Crumbley's attorneys filed a notice of an insanity defense.

Crumbley's parents, Jennifer and James Crumbley, are charged with involuntary manslaughter in the shooting. Their preliminary examinations are scheduled to resume Thursday.

Prosecutors allege they gave Ethan the gun as an early Christmas present. They also are accused of breaching their responsibility by refusing to remove him from school two hours before the shooting when counselors confronted them with his distressing drawings of violence.

State of the Union response: Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds will deliver the Republican response to President Joe Biden's State of the Union address March 1, GOP congressional leaders announced Tuesday.

Reynolds is the first woman to be elected governor in Iowa. She also was the first governor in the country to require schools to open for full-time in-person learning.

The GOP is anxious to portray GOP-led states as doing a better job of navigating the pandemic than the federal government, where Democrats are in control.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky praised Reynolds for fighting COVID-19 "without forgetting common sense."



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Thur., Mar. 10 | 12-1pm	Mon., Mar. 28 | 12-1pm
Mon., Mar. 14 | 12-1pm	Wed., Mar. 30 | 5-6pm

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Sara Mitchell, Medicare Educator

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BUSINESS

Germany halts certifying $11B natural gas pipeline

Action in response to Russia's recognition of 2 separatist regions in Ukraine

By Melissa Eddy
The New York Times

Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Tuesday that Germany would halt certification of the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline that would link his country with Russia, one of the strongest moves yet by the West to punish the Kremlin for recognizing two separatist regions in Ukraine.

The German leader's announcement came hours after President Vladimir Putin of Russia ordered armed forces to the separatist regions, the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics.

Germany's allies in Europe and the United States had been pressing Scholz for weeks to state publicly that the $11 billion pipeline, which was completed late last year and runs from Russia's coast to northern Germany under the Baltic Sea, would be at risk of being blocked in the event of a Russian move against Ukraine.

"The situation today is fundamentally different," Scholz said in Berlin. "That is why we must reevaluate this situation, in view of the latest developments. By the way, that includes Nord Stream 2."

Ukraine's government welcomed Germany's decision. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba called it "a morally, politically and practically correct step in the current circumstances."

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that Russia regretted the decision "because we've been reiterating this project has nothing to do with politics. And shouldn't have. This is a purely economical, commercial project which, on top of mutual benefit, is meant to be a stabilizing factor for European gas market."

Since November, the amount of natural gas arriving in Germany from Russia has plunged, driving prices through the roof and draining reserves, leaving all of Europe in an energy crunch. The pipeline, which is owned by a subsidiary of Gazprom, Russia's state-controlled energy behemoth, has been filled with natural gas but had not gone online, pending approval from a German regulator.

The pipeline had been certified by Chancellor Angela Merkel's government before she left office, the last step before the project was passed on to the regulator, who had said that the project might be approved as early as midyear.

But Tuesday's announcement rescinds the previous government's approval, and the project will now be reexamined under Scholz's economy ministry, which is led by a member of the environmentalist Greens party. Since taking office, both Scholz and his minister have stressed the importance of diversifying Germany's energy sources away from the heavy dependence on Russian natural gas.

Up to now, Berlin had long resisted pulling the plug on the project, despite strong pressure from the United States and some European countries to do so. Washington has for years also argued that building another pipeline bringing natural gas from Russia to Germany especially one that bypasses Ukraine increases Europe's reliance on Russian energy supplies.

The Associated Press contributed.



Amid a shortage of garage doors, plywood seals the garage of a new home in Sacramento, California. **ANDRI TAMBUNAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Garage doors 'a nightmare'

Supply chain complications frustrating the homebuilding industry as well as buyers

By Emily Badger
The New York Times

A single house under construction in America today faces all kinds of problems, starting with a run on lumber, then bricklayers in demand, subcontractors with COVID-19, appliances on back order and plumbing fixtures out at sea.

Add one more hitch.

"Garage doors are a nightmare," said Rick Palacios, director of research at John Burns Real Estate Consulting. If you had to rank the headaches homebuilders face, he said, "garage doors are the worst right now."

The homebuilding industry is having the most difficult time in decades meeting demand, the sum of many pandemic complications. But this moment reaches peak absurdity with garage doors.

Prices have doubled or tripled in the past year. Lead times have stretched from weeks to months. Homebuilders who would once order garage doors several weeks before finishing a house are now ordering them before the foundation is poured.

"It used to take us 20 weeks to build a house," said Adrian Foley, president and CEO of the Brookfield Properties development group, which develops thousands of single-family homes annually in North America. "And now it takes us 20 weeks to get a set of garage doors."

What is unique, with an American twist, is this: Homebuilders are struggling to complete new homes amid a housing shortage because they must first complete the thing designed to house our cars.

In most parts of the country, a builder can't pass final inspection for a home that is otherwise complete — but that is missing its garage door. That means builders don't get paid and homebuyers can't move in.

Delays are also contributing to the slow pace of homebuilding. Before the pandemic, a typical single-family home might have taken seven months to construct. Today it can take up to a year.

Nine in 10 new single-family homes in America were built with a garage in 2020, and they are nearly universal in the Midwest and on the West Coast.

"If anything, the pandemic has even furthered that" demand, said Jeff Schroeder, a senior vice president for Ponderosa Homes in California. As home prices have soared during the pandemic, families in places like the Bay Area are pushed toward cheaper housing farther into the exurbs. "To do that," Schroeder said, "they need a car."

Schroeder's company has been putting cheap, plain garage doors on homes selling in the $600,000s. "They're just placeholders," he said.

Foley's company has delayed closings rather than come up with temporary fixes.

"The garage door is aesthetically a part of the home's finish," he said. To deliver a home without one — "it's akin to delivering a new car without a front grille."

In Sacramento, California, national homebuilder Lennar asked the city's building department for a reprieve from garage door requirements.

"This is probably the first time I've ever been involved with a supply-chain issue," said Winfred DeLeon, Sacramento's chief building official. The department came up with a provisional agreement — to be signed by the bank and the homebuyer — allowing a home to be occupied with painted plywood sealing the garage.

No one has used the agreement yet, DeLeon said.

Musk, lawyers ramping up battle with SEC

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press

DETROIT — Elon Musk and his lawyers are escalating their fight with U.S. securities regulators, with a lawyer accusing them of leaking investigative information, and the Tesla CEO alleging on Twitter that government corruption is being exposed.

Musk's tweet early Tuesday and a Monday letter from Musk lawyer Alex Spiro to a federal judge didn't offer any specifics about the leak, but the actions ramped up a war of words with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The agency isn't the only federal regulator Musk is sparring with. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently has stepped up enforcement against Tesla. Last week, Musk called the agency the "fun police" for making Tesla recall a "Boombox" function that can play sounds over an external speaker and obscure audible warnings for pedestrians.

The safety agency has launched multiple investigations of Tesla and is overseeing 15 Tesla recalls since January 2021. Recalls include "Full Self-Driving" software being programmed to run stop signs at slow speeds. Investigations include unexpected braking by Tesla vehicles.

On Monday, Spiro filed another letter with the U.S. District Judge Alison Nathan in Manhattan accusing at least one SEC staff member of leaking information about an investigation of Musk and Tesla's compliance with a court order aimed at controlling his tweets.

"It has become clearer ... that the commission is out to retaliate against my clients for exercising their First Amendment rights," Spiro wrote.

Musk tweeted Tuesday that the allegations are "just peeling back the first layer of the corruption onion." No details were given. The SEC responded with a letter saying it was following Nathan's instructions in trying to speak with Musk's lawyers about his posts on Twitter.

The SEC spat goes back to 2018, when Musk and Tesla each agreed to pay $20 million in fines over Musk's tweets about having the money to take the company private at $420 per share.

Fire aboard cargo ship still adrift subsiding

By Barry Hatton
Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — A fire aboard a ship carrying cars in the mid-Atlantic is dying out, a Portuguese navy officer said Tuesday, and the huge vessel is expected to be towed to the Bahamas.

The blaze on the Felicity Ace has burned for six days near Portugal's Azores Islands. A Portuguese Air Force helicopter evacuated the 22 crew members last week, leaving the 650-foot vessel adrift.

Two ocean-going tugboats with firefighting equipment have hosed down the ship's hull to cool it, according to the port of Horta harbormaster, Capt. Joao Mendes Cabecas, on the Azores island of Faial.

Two more tugboats were expected to arrive by the end of the week, he told The Associated Press.

The cause of the fire is not known, Mendes Cabecas said, though suspicion has fallen on lithium batteries in electric vehicles the Felicity Ace was taking from Germany to the United States.

"We know from what the captain told us that there were a lot of electric vehicles on board, as well as non-electric vehicles," he said.

The fire broke out on a cargo deck where the vehicles were stowed, according to Mendes Cabecas, but when the alarm went off there was already too much smoke to make out where the blaze had started.

Flames were no longer visible from outside Tuesday, and the ship is stable, he said. A salvage crew hopes to get aboard the ship Wednesday and hook up a tow line.

Volkswagen Group has said the ship was transporting vehicles that the German automaker produced but has provided no more details. Mendes Cabecas said there was currently no threat of pollution.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Home Depot sales still strong

Home Depot saw its sales remain strong in its fourth quarter as it continues to benefit from a sizzling housing market.

Sales for the three months ended Jan. 30 rose to $35.7 billion from $32.3 billion. This beat the $34.9 billion that analysts polled by FactSet forecast.

Sales at stores open at least a year, a key gauge of a retailer's health, climbed 8.1%. In the U.S., the metric increased 7.6%.

Home improvement stores have been busy during the pandemic as people working from home took on new projects. Many also moved into new homes with more space for a home office.

Home Depot Inc. earned $3.35 billion, or $3.21 per share, in the fourth quarter. A year ago it earned $2.86 billion, or $2.65 per share.

Justices refuse to hear appeal

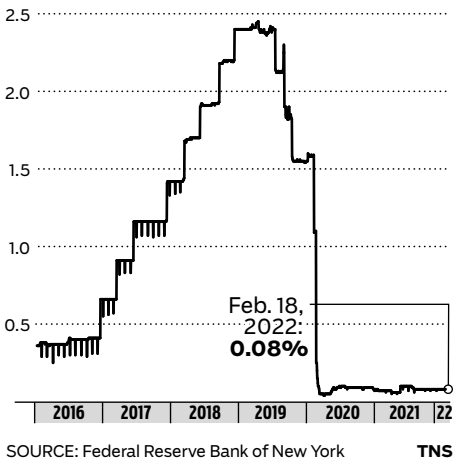
BISMARCK, N.D. — The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to consider an appeal of a lawsuit over the Dakota Access Pipeline, meaning that an ongoing environmental review of the pipeline will continue.

Dakota Access, which is controlled by Texas-based Energy Transfer, appealed a lower court ruling that affirmed the need for a more thorough environmental study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

The Corps issued an easement for the pipeline's Missouri River crossing in 2017, but a federal judge ruled in 2020 that a prior environmental analysis of the line was inadequate and revoked the permit. The outcome of the new environmental review will determine whether the Corps reissues the permit.

Effective federal funds rate

Daily interest rate at which banks lend each other reserve funds



SOURCE: Federal Reserve Bank of New York **TNS**

BUSINESS

Air Canada will resume service to Bradley

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

WINDSOR LOCKS — After more than two years, Air Canada will resume daily, year-round flights out of Bradley International Airport to Toronto, beginning June 1, the most optimistic sign yet that air travel in the state is recovering from the massive downturn in the pandemic.

"It's a good sign for business travel and, in particular, international travel," Kevin A. Dillon, executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority, said Tuesday, noting that the majority of bookings on Air Canada are for business travel.

Air Canada stopped flying out of Bradley soon after the coronavirus took hold in the United States and restrictions were placed on crossing the border, except for essential travel.

Those restrictions were lifted about a year ago, but business travel had to pick up enough to justify resuming service, Dillon said.

While the Air Canada announcement Tuesday bodes well for international travel, Dillon said he expects it could be another year before Aer Lingus resumes its trans-Atlantic flights to Dublin.

"We continue to stay in touch with Aer Lingus, and they continue to insist that they are committed to Bradley Airport," Dillon said. "But how things stand with trans-Atlantic travel, I'm not anticipating that we're going to see them return until the spring of 2023."

Typically, an airline makes an announcement six months prior to initiating service at an airport.

The announcement of Air Canada's return comes less than a week after low-fare carrier Breeze Airways said it will triple the number of routes out of Bradley and establish an operations base at the airport, hiring more than 200.

"The fact that we are able to increase overall capacity, whether its Air Canada or the recent Breeze announcement, we're feeling pretty confident that by the end of the calendar year, we'll be back to pre-pandemic levels," Dillon said.

In 2019, Bradley served just under 7 million passengers. Dillon said that volume could again be reached by the end of 2023.

Dillon said he believes the airport could grow to serve 10 million passengers and justify the construction of a second terminal. The airport will soon open its new transportation center.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Data: Online toxicity, already pervasive, is getting worse

By David Klepper
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Online harassment has become such a familiar part of the internet. From teen cyberbullying to authoritarian governments silencing dissent, online toxicity is a fact of life for everyone, with women, teens, and religious and racial minorities the most likely to be targeted.

And there is evidence the problem is getting worse.

In 2014, 15% of Americans said they had faced severe or significant online abuse, defined as stalking, physical threats, sustained harassment or sexual harassment. In 2021 the number was 25%, according to studies by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Health care workers, journalists, teachers, police and government workers have all reported increases in online harassment in recent years, as the pandemic and political polarization led many people to release their anger and fear online.

Nearly three in four female journalists reported receiving threats or other forms of online harassment, according to a survey by UNESCO and the International Center for Journalists that polled more than 700 journalists in more than 100 countries. One in five of those said the harassment escalated to offline abuse or even assault.

The growth of the internet has also expanded the ways that people can be targeted beyond merely email to social media posts, direct messages, texts and streaming video. And with the rise of smartphones and cheap, ubiquitous internet, harassment can now be a 24-7 problem for victims.

"We've made so many strides — there's more awareness now — but it's easy to get frustrated and to feel like we've gotten nowhere," said Tina Meier, who started a foundation to teach kids and parents about online harassment after her daughter's suicide in 2006.

Thirteen-year-old Megan Meier had been bullied by someone she met online who she thought was a teenage boy named Josh. The two had flirted until the person suddenly turned against Megan. "Everybody hates you," "Josh" wrote. "The world would be a better place without you."

Police later determined that "Josh" was actually an adult woman, the mother of one of Megan's classmates.

While polls show all types of people are susceptible to online harassment, extensive research has shown that women and people of color are far more likely to be targeted. That's also true for people with disabilities, people who belong to religious minorities and members of the LGBTQ community.

Women are more likely than men to say online harassment is a serious problem, Pew found. They're also more likely to report being the victims of online sexual harassment and more serious abuse such as threats of physical harm.

The difference is so great that many men may not understand the severity of the demeaning language, sexualized insults and unwanted attention that women frequently face online. A coordinated harassment campaign against female video game designers that began in 2014, known as Gamergate, became so pervasive — including threats of rape, torture and murder — that some women hired security or went into hiding.



Tina Meier founded the Megan Meier Foundation after her daughter died by suicide caused by online bullying from a classmate's mother posing as a boy. **JEFF ROBERSON/AP 2021**

Online harassment has also been used globally to attack journalists, dissidents and others in the public arena.

Political consultant Maria Cardona began receiving nasty emails and direct messages once she began presenting her opinions on national news shows. She's noticed that many of her critics seem focused on the idea that an outspoken Latina woman could be considered an authority on politics.

One typical message read: "I hope you get raped and have your throat slit."

"They want to shut us up, they want to scare us, they want to intimidate us," said Cardona, who now keeps her office locked after someone showed up to accost her in person.

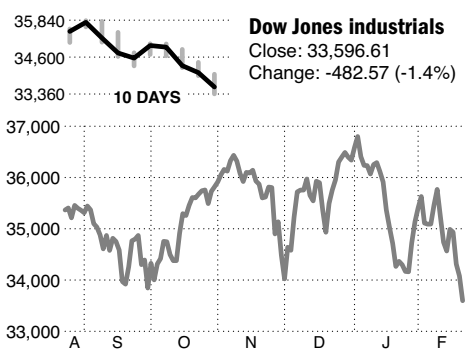
MARKET RUNDOWN

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

DOW 33,596.61 -482.57

10-YR T-BOND 1.95% +.03

GOLD $1,906.10 +7.50



Dow Jones industrials
Close: 33,596.61
Change: -482.57 (-1.4%)

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	33,596.61	-482.57	-7.54%
DOW Trans.	14,734.98	-235.99	-10.58%
DOW Util.	915.80	+.03	-6.63%
NYSE Comp.	16,215.62	-176.71	-5.53%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,381.52	-166.55	-14.47%
S&P 500	4,304.76	-44.11	-9.68%
S&P 400	2,596.25	-36.24	-8.65%
Wilshire 5000	43,354.48	-512.08	-10.54%
Russell 2000	1,980.17	-29.16	-11.81%

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	92.35	91.07	+22.79%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.50	4.43	+20.59%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.71	2.67	+21.48%
METALS	**CLOSE**	**PREV.**	**YTD**
Gold (oz)	1,906.10	1,898.60	+4.30%
Silver (oz)	24.31	23.99	+4.21%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. $	U.S. $ in ForEx
Britain	1.3592	.7357
Canada	.7841	1.2753
China	.1581	6.3266
Euro	1.1335	.8823
Japan	.008690	115.07
Mexico	.049272	20.2955

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25
3-mo. T-Bill	0.40	0.46
6-mo. T-Bill	0.75	0.78
5-yr T-Note	1.85	1.90
10-yr T-Note	1.95	1.99
30-yr T-Bond	2.24	2.30

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	14,693.00	-38.12	-.26%	-7.50%
London	7,494.21	+9.88	+.13%	+1.49%
Hong Kong	23,520.00	-650.07	-2.69%	+.52%
Nikkei	26,449.61	-461.26	-1.71%	-8.13%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	16.47	-1.43	-39.4
AT&T Inc (T)	23.75	-.12	-3.5
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	115.65	+1.82	-19.6
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.43	-.44	-3.0
Amphenol Corp (APH)	74.94	-1.29	-14.3
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	6.94	-.17	-11.3
Apple Inc (AAPL)	164.32	-2.98	-7.5
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	43.51	-.33	-12.8
Bank of America (BAC)	45.56	-.40	+2.4
Barnes Group (B)	46.35	-1.56	-.5
Barrick Gold (GOLD)	22.76	-.38	+19.8
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2518.22	-98.19	+5.0
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	67.45	-.10	+8.2
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	101.92	-.21	-1.2
Carnival Corp (CCL)	21.51	-.66	+6.9
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	45.29	+1.21	-16.5
Charter Communic (CHTR)	595.50	-1.33	-8.7
Cigna Corp (CI)	227.73	-.92	-.8
Hutao Technology Co (CSCW)	.23	-.29	-54.1
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	46.94	+.30	-6.7
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	2.05	-.12	-34.1
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	4.25	+.22	-14.7
Disney (DIS)	148.09	-3.27	-4.4
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	18.59	+1.30	-32.3
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	114.61	-.91	-10.0
Ethan Allen (ETD)	25.79	+.93	-1.9
Eversource Energy (ES)	82.41	-.41	-9.4
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	76.46	-.90	+25.0
Ford Motor (F)	17.29	-.75	-16.8
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	4.74	-.27	-8.8
Gen Dynamics (GD)	216.82	+1.00	+4.0
Gen Electric (GE)	94.15	+1.46	-.3
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	70.31	-.22	+1.8
Honeywell Intl (HON)	182.56	+.43	-12.4
Hookipa Pharma Inc (HOOK)	2.52	+.04	+8.2
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.46	-.43	-2.9
Houghton Mifflin Har (HMHC)	20.90	+2.78	+29.8
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	.80	+.31	-62.6
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	23.05	+.54	-8.9
Intel Corp (INTC)	44.69	-.35	-13.2
Kaman (KAMN)	41.64	-.44	-3.5
Keycorp (KEY)	25.59	-.05	+10.6
Kinross Gold (KGC)	5.51	-.31	-5.2
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	68.83	-.82	+.8
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	25.51	-1.08	-33.0

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	43.23	-.33	-3.7
Macy's Inc (M)	24.42	-1.28	-6.7
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	202.08	-4.08	-39.9
MetLife Inc (MET)	68.96	-.59	+10.4
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	287.72	-.21	-14.5
Mullen Automotive (MULN)	.61	-.02	-88.3
Novartis AG (NVS)	85.83	-.56	-1.9
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	233.90	-2.52	-20.5
Ocugen Inc (OCGN)	4.23	+.77	-7.0
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	76.30	-.05	-12.4
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	10.48	-.54	-42.4
PayPal Holdings (PYPL)	103.17	-.48	-45.3
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	20.99	+.23	+17.8
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	47.53	-1.00	-19.5
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.71	-.04	-29.0
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	112.76	-1.31	+4.2
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	64.68	...	-3.1
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	93.54	+.17	+8.7
Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.25	-.41	-.3
Roku Inc (ROKU)	121.97	+9.51	-46.6
Roblox Corp (RBLX)	48.21	-1.51	-53.3
SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	74.21	+.29	-9.5
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	10.26	-1.13	-35.1
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	158.65	-3.14	-15.9
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.91	-.38	-1.6
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.52	-.05	-9.3
Tegna Inc (TGNA)	22.44	+1.49	+20.9
Terex Corp (TEX)	40.72	-.96	-7.3
Tesla Inc (TSLA)	821.53	-35.45	-22.3
Travelers Cos (TRV)	171.08	+.45	+9.4
Uber Technologies (UBER)	33.68	-1.00	-19.7
United Rentals (URI)	312.32	+.50	-6.0
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	462.51	-5.30	-7.9
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	250.17	-2.26	-15.8
Voya Financial (VOYA)	68.32	-.76	+3.0
Webster Financial (WBS)	59.56	-.14	+6.7
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1030.22	-6.90	+1.6
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	57.79	-.76	+17.1
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	68.65	-2.83	-11.3
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.92	-.90	-7.6
Yamana Gold Inc (AUY)	4.94	+.03	+17.1
Zosano Pharma Corp (ZSAN)	.13	-.09	-72.3



Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION



Protesters walk on Saturday toward Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario. Earlier in the day, police moved in and ended a weekslong demonstration by truck drivers. **SCOTT OLSON/GETTY**

A new class war comes to Canada



Ross Douthat

A great and mostly unknown prophet of our time is Michael Young, whose book "The Rise of the Meritocracy," published way back in 1958, both coined the term in its title and predicted, in its fictional vision of the 21st century, meritocracy's unhappy destination: not the serene rule of the deserving and talented, but a society where a ruling class selected for intelligence but defined by arrogance and insularity faces a roiling populism whose grievances shift but whose anger at the new class order is a constant.

This year it's Canada's turn to live inside Young's somewhat dystopian scenario, set in the 2030s but here ahead of schedule. On one side of the trucker protests, you have Justin Trudeau, a condensed symbol of meritocracy blurring into aristocracy — with degrees from two of Canada's three best universities but also the pedigree of being Pierre Trudeau's son — and behind him a Canadian establishment that has followed public health advice on COVID-19 more closely than the United States, imposing more stringent restrictions throughout the pandemic.

Then on the other side, you have the truckers and their allies: a complex mix of forces in the style of France's yellow vests, organized in part by right-wingers but inclusive of all kinds of characters and ideas, defined by an exhaustion with pandemic restrictions and a strong connection to the physical portion of the economy — the part that relies on brawn and savvy, not just the manipulation of words and symbols on a screen.

This last division was not precisely anticipated in Young's book, writing as he did before the true rise of the computer, but it has ended up being a key expression of the meritocracy-populist divide. To quote the pseudonymous writer N.S. Lyons, the trucker protests have sharpened a division between "Virtuals" and "Practicals" — meaning the people whose professional lives are lived increasingly in the realm of the "digital and the abstract," and the people who work in the "mundane physical reality" upon which the virtual society still depends.

This division is not always one of money. Plenty of Practicals do very well for themselves, while plenty of Virtuals scrape along on, say, graduate student stipends or middling think-tank salaries. But the class divide between the two categories is clear, and so is the gap between their respective influence over the central nodes of Western power. And their simmering conflict is most likely to flare up when plans devised by meritocrats create problems in the physical dimension — whether it's a gasoline tax increase devised by French technocrats touching off protests among French drivers, or just an accumulating exhaustion with COVID-19 restrictions among Canadians who work in the real world rather than on Zoom.

Moreover, as Lyons points out, in the Canadian clash, each side has used the weapons appropriate to its position. The truckers have leveraged the imposing presence of their trucks and the sympathy of other Practicals — from tow truck drivers to cops — to attack the physical underpinnings of the capital's economy. Meanwhile, the counterstrike, while it's finally evolved to actual physical removal, has been strikingly virtual: first a PR blitz to encourage friendly media to brand all the truckers as racists and antisemites and Trump supporters; then the convenient hacking and "doxxing" of donors to the convoy; and then an invocation of the Emergencies Act, which lets the government attack the protesters via the digital realm, freezing bank accounts and even cryptocurrency funds connected to the protests.

Since politics exists to organize fears, a major question for people caught between these two camps is, which kind of power seems more frightening? The power to shut down the heart of a major city, perhaps even with the sympathy of some of the police, or the power over money and information that the Trudeau government is relying upon in its response? The specter of an insurrection or the specter of a digital police state? A revolt of the disaffected middle or a revolt of the elites?

At the moment, judging by the Canadian polls, people are unhappy with Trudeau but seem to fear the disruptions and shutdowns more than the government response. A similar preference for a disliked elite over a chaotic and disreputable opposition is why Joe Biden is president rather than Donald Trump and why Emmanuel Macron may be reelected in France.

But at the same time, the truckers have already won a tacit victory in the move away from vaccine passport systems in Ontario and Quebec — which, like the ongoing swing against public health restrictions in the United States, suggests the fluidity of these conflicts. And the conflicts are also more complex, inevitably, than any binary can capture: The resilience of reality creates fissures inside the meritocracy (as lately between parents and educational bureaucrats, say), while the populist side has its own virtual dream palaces (the world of QAnon and related conspiracies is not exactly a practical dimension).

Still, once you recognize the divisions that Young prophesied, you see them in some form all over as a novel class war that constantly raises the old question: *Which side are you on?*

Douthat is a columnist for The New York Times.

Cheap gasoline prices can be part of good climate policy

By Matthew Yglesias
Bloomberg Opinion

Worried that rising prices will hurt their chances in November's midterm elections, moderate Senate Democrats are considering a gas tax holiday. Economists, predictably, are panning the idea as a political gimmick that won't actually do much to curb inflation.

The economists are right, of course. At the same time, the Democratic senators are right. Bringing prices down at the gas pump wouldn't necessarily affect the broader rate of inflation — what consumers save on gas they'll probably spend on other stuff — but it would still be popular.

Which brings up a larger issue: Democrats are enamored of this idea right now because voters are mad about high gas prices. But Democrats might want to consider the notion that supporting policies to keep gasoline cheap is also a good long-term political strategy — and is not inconsistent with their goal of reducing carbon emissions to address climate change. By now it's clear that the solution to the pollution problems associated with burning gasoline isn't more conservation, it's more electric vehicles. And the EV market is genuinely booming — in no small part thanks to past and current policies Democrats have championed to subsidize EV purchases, build out a charging network and invest in battery technology.

For now, though, the EV market share remains relatively small. Most people still have gasoline-powered cars. So the goal should not be to make gas expensive so much as to keep boosting EVs, investing in mass transit and intercity rail, and generally doing everything possible to speed the extinction of the internal combustion engine.

As it happens, that's just the kind of innovation-focused climate policy that is consistent with last year's bipartisan infrastructure bill, the bipartisan energy bill that passed the year before that, and with the climate-focused tax credits that are the centerpiece of the legislation formerly known as Build Back Better. It's also very much in line with the initiative to spur decarbonization in the industrial sector that White House rolled out last week.

It is not consistent, however, with President Joe Biden's campaign promise to ban fracking on federal land or to halt oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico.

For Democrats in the 2020 campaign, those kind of promises were par for the course. Biden, one of the most moderate candidates, faced considerable criticism for not embracing a total ban on fracking. It's simply taken for granted that any halfway progressive government would try to kneecap fossil-fuel production, with Biden for example resuming Obama-era efforts to block the Keystone XL pipeline.

At the same time, when Republicans blame Biden's policies for scarce fuel supplies, the White House will note that it has actually approved many leases. And then, when environmentalists criticize it for approving so many leases, the White House will point out that court rulings have tied the administration's hands. Further confusing the situation is a federal ruling last month annulling the latest leases in the Gulf of Mexico.

It's safe to say that the administration itself is divided on what it wants to see happen. Some officials are true-believing environmentalists who want to keep as much fossil fuel in the ground as possible, while others are more pragmatic and want the economic benefits of more drilling. For the sake of keeping everyone on the same page, they seem to have agreed on a solution: Try to block new drilling, then accept rulings from conservative judges that allow it to continue.

Americans are used to thinking of Democrats as a fairly moderate center-left party, especially when compared to its counterparts in countries that have universal health care. But on this issue, Democrats are the global outliers.

After last fall's parliamentary elections, three left-of-center Norwegian parties controlled a majority of seats. Labor Party leader Jonas Gahr Støre hoped to form a coalition with the Center Party and the Socialist Left Party. But the Socialist Left, which won just 7.6% of the vote, insisted on a coalition agreement that would curb oil and gas production. Støre refused, and now leads a minority coalition with the Center.



Motorists fill up vehicles at a gas station Feb. 16 in Denver. According to AAA, the national average price of a gallon of gas on Tuesday was $3.53. **DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP**

In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, seen by many American liberals as a kindred spirit, has long championed the Keystone pipeline. Just as Støre lost out on his dreams of a majority coalition over the issue, Trudeau's soft line on fossil-fuel extraction helps explain why his Liberal Party suffers defections to Canada's small Green Party.

For both leaders, the calculus is clear: Losing some votes on the left is worth the gains in the center.

Of course, Democrats could just say they are against both the production and consumption of fossil fuels, full stop, and pursue policies that made them more difficult. But the party does not seem to be willing to go that far. Biden has repeatedly urged OPEC to increase production for the sake of the global economy, only to be rebuffed by Saudi Arabia. Then there was the funny business with the lease litigation. And now there is the flirtation with the gas tax holiday.

The result is that they are in a bizarre dead zone. Democrats have successfully branded themselves as the party that wants to halt fossil-fuel production and reduce dirty energy, even though this image is unpopular. Meanwhile, environmentalists are aware that Biden has not come remotely close to fulfilling his promises on squelching fossil-fuel production. The president, for his part — because he doesn't actually want oil and gas to be expensive — is asking Saudi Arabia for help and flirting with weird tax gimmicks.

A much better approach would be to own up to the fact that Democrats' policy is basically the same as Støre's or Trudeau's. To wit: We strongly support investment in the green technologies of the future, but we also want to pump whatever's in the ground now as long as fossil fuels remain integral to the global economy.

That would cause a bitter internecine fight. But if mainstream progressive politicians from fractious multiparty systems abroad can wage it, so can Democrats.

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Announcements

Lost/Found

IMPOUND - #178 Pitbull, Female, Grey & White. #179 Pitbull, Male, Grey & White. #180 Chihuahua Mix, Female, Tan & White, #181 Chihuahua Mix, Female, Tri Color. Call Hartford PD 860-757-4000

Real Estate

Rentals

WEST HARTFORD
WAITING LIST OPENING
THE RESIDENCES AT 540 NEW PARK

The Residences at 540 New Park will be accepting pre-applications for apartments located at 540 New Park Avenue, West Hartford CT 06110. Eligibility for these units is subject to household income limits and other eligibility criteria under the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program.

Current 2021-2022 LIHTC Maximum Income Limits:

1 PERSON - $43,860
2 PERSONS - $50,100
3 PERSONS - $56,340
4 PERSONS - $62,580

Rents will range from approximately $837-$1033 for a one bedroom and $995-$1230 for a two bedroom unit depending on household income level (prices subject to change).

Interested applicants must apply between February 16, 2022 and May 17, 2022 11:59pm. Applicants may apply by:
· Submitting a pre-application online at www.540NewPark.com; or
· Requesting a paper pre-application be mailed to the applicant, which must be returned by mail to ATTENTION: Residences at 540 New Park Waitlist 80 Shield Street, West Hartford CT 06110 with a postmark date between February 16, 2022 and May 10, 2022, and received no later than May 17, 2022; or
· Requesting an appointment during the application period if assistance is needed to complete the pre-application. Please note: Assistance with completing the application will be offered by appointment ONLY due to the current COVID Pandemic.

If you have a disability and require a Reasonable Accommodation, please call 860-993-7109.

Only one pre-application per family will be accepted; duplicate pre-applications will be disqualified.

This pre-application is accessible through any computer, tablet or smart phone. After successfully completing the pre-application, you may print the confirmation of successful completion of your application.

The Residences at 540 New Park will use a Random-Draw Lottery System to determine the waiting list order from all applications.

The Residences at 540 New Park does not discriminate in admission or access to its housing or programs. Any eligible individual with disabilities will be served. Those who have visual or hearing impairments will be provided with the necessary information to understand and participate in the program. Efforts will be coordinated to comply with the nondiscrimination requirements of the Fair Housing Act. This is an equal opportunity housing development. www.540NewPark.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to collocate antennas at 55 feet AGL on a 49-foot building at 236 Sisson Avenue, Hartford, Hartford Co., CT 06105. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Project 6122001314 - JLD c/o EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, jdavis@ebiconsulting.com, or (203) 231-6643.
2/23/22 7155816

EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Seeks to replace ~240,000 square feet, consisting of mostly built-up style roofing systems: gravel ballast covering 4-ply asphalt roofing over 2-4" fiberglass insulation and a vapor barrier mopped on a gypsum deck, located at 869 Forbes St, East Hartford, CT 06118.
East Hartford Public Schools, Department of Facilities
734 Tolland Street, East Hartford, CT 06108
Invitation to Bid – # 1795-22
EHHS Roof Replacement State Project # 043-0245 RR
is available at the State of CT/DAS/CTSource/Bidboard Portal:
https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/BidBoard
and/or https://www.easthartford.org
BIDS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 12 PM ON FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022
2/23/22 7155425

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Public Notice

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center (The Applicant) is filing an application for a Certificate of Need under section §19a-638 of the Connecticut General Statues. The Applicant is requesting approval to establish an outpatient substance abuse treatment facility at the Burgdorf Clinic, located at 131 Coventry Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06112. The total capital expenditure of this project is $250,000.
2/23, 2/24, 2/25/2022 7154289

East Haven CT Minority Opportunity – Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice; East Haven CT- East Haven Veterans Memorial Ice Rink. Trades; portable restrooms. Material Supply; flat stock metal. Our bid submits on Thursday, March 03, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktownroofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
2/23/2022 7155111

U-Haul Moving and Storage Company of Capitol Ave, will sell household and personal items, contained in the following storage rooms due to unpaid storage fees on Monday, March 7th, 2022.

Donna Wlliams	Unit 1300
hiramie tulsie	Unit 1903
Marvin Knighton	Unit 3014
Poalo Lanterieri	Unit 2215
Sydnee Ransom	Unit 2320
RACHAYA LANE	Unit 1134
Javier Negron	Unit 1917

Contents to be sold on the premises of 755 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106 on Monday, March 7th, 2022 on Storageauctions.com and close out at 9:00AM.
Purchases to be paid for at the time of purchase, a $100.00 deposit by debit or credit card ONLY, will be needed on EACH room purchased. U-HAUL reserves the right to bid or purchase any lot or space. Auction service provided by www.storageauctions.com
Absolutely NO U-Haul Storage customers, or their family or friends on their behalf, whose units are listed in auction, may participate in any auction proceedings. You MUST contact Marketing Company Storage Manager, Joy St. Pierre, for an appointment to purchase any units won online in auction. All persons will be turned away from the location without an appointment. Contact Joy St. Pierre with any questions or concerns at Joy_StPierre@uhaul.com
2/21,2/23/2022 7152188

LEGAL NOTICE
West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District
580 Cottage Grove Road, Suite 100, Bloomfield, CT
Virtual Public Hearing

The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 01, 2022 at 4pm via Zoom to receive comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Health District budget. Copies may be obtained from the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District office or on the Health District's website, www.westhartfordct.gov/health. The public hearing will be conducted exclusively as a virtual public hearing in accordance with Governor Lamont's executive orders regarding the conduct of public meetings and proceedings.
Any interested person(s) may participate in the public hearing by calling at the scheduled date and time and using the following access code:
March 1, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting ID: 842 4998 4990 Call: +1 301 715 8592 Access Code: 323515
Participants using caller ID blocking will not be permitted to participate. Participants will be muted upon entry into the public hearing and only unmuted once prompted by the Chair/Moderator.
2/15-2/26/22 7143536

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NEWS UPDATES 24/7

Connecticut

New Haven CT Minority Opportunity – Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice; New Haven CT-USPS New Haven-West Haven Branch. Material Supply; flatstock metal. Our bid submits on Friday, February 25, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktownroofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
2/23/2022 7155108

ORDER OF NOTICE

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
643 Farmington Ave.
New Britain, CT 06053
860-357-6161
3/9/2022 at 1:00 PM
Unit 197 Clement Russel Beds, tables, boxes of clothes, glass case.
Unit 303 Tenisha Astwood Party supplies, tablecloths, chair covers.
Unit 421 Julie Diorio Boxes, dresser, shelves, lots of boxes
Unit 434 Krystal Blackman Boxes of household goods.
Unit 478 Alyssa Broe Furniture and household goods.
Unit 647 Robert Murray Furniture.
Unit 684 Wandynel Vega Furniture and household goods.
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
2/23, 3/2/2022 7154123

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Connecticut

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
BOULEVARD AND GARFIELD ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS
CONTRACT NUMBER 2021B-24
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids for construction of Contract Number 2021B-24: Boulevard and Garfield Road Water Main Replacements Project will be received and safeguarded by The Metropolitan District, at the office of the District Clerk of the Metropolitan District, 555 Main Street, Hartford, CT, 06103 until 2:00 PM (Local Time), March 25, 2022 and at that time and place Bids will be opened and read aloud by online conference call. All interested parties may join either by this link, https://bit.ly/3le6ZiT, OR by phone: (415) 655-0001, enter meeting # 2306 004 1559 to connect to the meeting.
The Work shall consist of all labor, equipment, fees, permits, and other related costs necessary to provide for the installation of approximately 2,990 LF of 8-inch Ductile Iron water main, appurtenances, new hydrants, water service transfers and meter pit installations on the Boulevard and approximately 2,341 LF of 8-inch Ductile Iron water main, appurtenances, new hydrants, water service transfers, and meter pit installations on Garfield Road to replace the existing water mains of various sizes along with support equipment and accessories as shown and specified. Bidders are directed to Section 01010 Summary of Work for specific details. The Work shall be located in the Town of West Hartford; in the State of Connecticut as shown on the Drawings and specified therein.
Contract documents may be obtained from The Metropolitan District's electronic procurement bidding system. Prospective Bidders must register at the web site; once registered, prospective bidders can download the bid package from the web site at https://mdc.procureware.com/home. A copy of the Contract documents may be requested by contacting the District Clerk's Office at 860.278.7850, Ext. 3207.
Each Bid shall be submitted in strict accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of 10 percent of the Bid.
Bidders on this work are required to comply with 40 CFR Part 33.240 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's policy on the increased utilization of Minority Business Enterprise's (MBE's) and Women Business Enterprise's (WBE's). The requirements for bidders and contractors covered by this policy are explained in the Instructions to Bidders.
Bidders and subcontractors to this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Orders No. 11246 and 12549, the Governor of Connecticut's Executive Orders No. 3, 17, 16 and any amendments or supplements to those EOs.
Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in part by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and/or the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Neither the State of Connecticut nor any of its departments, agencies or employees is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting contract. This procurement will be subject to the requirements contained in subsections (h), (j) and (o) of Section 22a-482-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. A copy of these Regulations is included in the Supplementary Conditions.
The Bidder shall hold a current DAS Contractor Prequalification Certificate in Water and Sewer Lines from the Department of Administrative Services of the State of Connecticut according to C.G.S. § 4a-100, C.G.S. §4b-101 and C.G.S.§4b-91. Bidders shall submit with their Bids their DAS Contractor Prequalification Certificate along with a current Update Statement. In addition, any named Subcontractor whose subcontract value is equal to or greater than $500,000 shall hold a current DAS Contractor Prequalification Certificate in the closest applicable Classification of the work that the Subcontractor will complete in the contract. The bidder must submit with their bid, all applicable Subcontractor DAS Prequalification certificates. Any Bid submitted without a copy of the DAS Prequalification Certificate and an Update Statement for the bidder and DAS Prequalification Certificates for Subcontractors whose subcontract value is equal to or greater than $500,000 shall be invalid.
Since MBE/WBE Subcontractors are not required to be named at bid submission, Bidders do not need to include MBE/WBE Subcontractor Prequalification Certificates with their bids. However, as to proposed MBE/WBE Subcontractors whose subcontract value is equal to or greater than $500,000, the DAS Contractor Prequalification Certificate is not required with the bid, but within fourteen (14) days of the notification of designation as the apparent low bidder, the apparent low bidder shall submit to the Owner a current DAS Contractor Prequalification Certificate in each appropriate work classification for each such MBE/WBE Subcontractor. Bidders do not need to include MBE/WBE Subcontractor Prequalification Certificates with their bids.
The Successful Bidder and each of its Subcontractors having subcontracts in value equal to or greater than $500,000 shall maintain and keep current their respective DAS Contractor Prequalification Certificates at all times during the term of the Contract and any warranty period set forth in the Contract Documents.
A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held for potential Bidders by online conference call at 10:00AM on Thursday March 3, 2022. Prospective Bidders must join either by this link https://bit.ly/3satEqL OR by phone (415) 655-0001, enter meeting # 2318 353 0844 to connect to the meeting. Prospective Bidders must attend this virtual conference and have their attendance recorded by District staff in order to submit a bid. All prospective Bidders are invited to ask questions to the Owner and/or the Owner's Agent(s) during this conference, but only written responses to such questions may alter information contained in the Bid documents.
John S. Mirtle District Clerk
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Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **SURAJ KC, 160 HILLCREST AVE APT B, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110-2243.** Have filed an application placarded **02/12/2022** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **PACKAGE STORE LIQUOR PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **656 ARCH ST NEW BRITAIN CT 06051-3341**. The business will be owned by TRIDEV TRADING LLC. Entertainment will consist of: Objections must be filed by: 03/26/2022.

02/12/2022
SURAJ KC

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Berlin
Mary G. Curry
Bristol
Jeffrey Dewitt
Cromwell
Constance Scheu
Enfield
Christine Jasminski
Farmington
Justin D. Good
New Britain
Mary G. Curry
George M. Kovak
Newington
Maynard A. Malenfant
Carmine Masi
Rebecca Sisson
Old Saybrook
George M. Kovak
Other Towns in CT
Jeffrey Dewitt
Maynard A. Malenfant
William Rosa
Plainville
Margaret Grabeck
Simsbury
Gretchen Craffey
Christine Jasminski
South Windsor
Diane Ferrick
Unionville
Justin D. Good
West Hartford
Gretchen Craffey
Carmine Masi

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

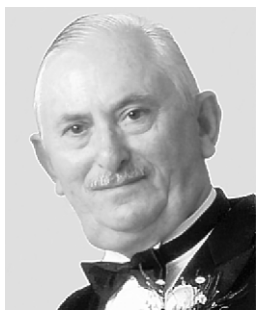
Craffey, Gretchen (Russell)



Gretchen (Russell) Craffey, 86, died peacefully in her sleep Friday, February 18, 2022. Fiercely independent and sharp of mind to the end, her life was both full and fulfilling. Gretchen was profoundly thankful. Although slowed down by injury during her last two weeks with us, she was especially grateful for the opportunity to visit with family before passing. She died surrounded by the love of her children, grandchildren and a great-grandson. Born in Cambridge, MA, Gretchen was the daughter of William and Mary (White) Russell. Gretchen lived more than 60 years in Simsbury, CT, a town she loved dearly.
Gretchen graduated from the College of New Rochelle and the University of Saint Joseph, completing her masters while raising a family. She loved her work as a counselor for the Bachelor of General Studies program at UCONN. She was an active volunteer at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford and supported The House of Bread and Habitat for Humanity. She enjoyed her family, thinking, speaking, listening, walking, writing poetry, Tai Chi and reading. She loved the trees, the birds, the wind drying her sheets, riding her bicycle, and all things small. She cherished her close friends, who cherished her back.
Gretchen is predeceased by her beloved former husband, Jack Craffey, her sister, Mary Ann Venti, and her son, John Craffey. She is survived by her children, Alicia Craffey of Simsbury, Alanna Craffey and husband Dave Lurvey of South Berwick, ME, William Craffey of Martha's Vineyard, Mary Sciano and husband Paul Sciano of Marlborough, and Patrick Craffey and partner Kelly Su Lim of West Hartford. She is survived by her brother Fr. William Russell, SJ of Weston, MA, her sister Margery Lok, of South Dartmouth, MA, and her brothers Jude Russell of Kingston, MA, and Gregory Russell of Westford, MA. She will be dearly missed by her seven grandchildren, Hannah Schriefer, Abby Schriefer, Ben Schriefer, Liam Craffey, Maya Craffey, May Sciano and Joe Sciano. Her spirit lives on in all of us, including her great-grandchild, Sage.
A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 am on Saturday, February 26 at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street in Hartford. Please note mask guidelines on the Church website, spsact.org, where a live-stream link to the service will be available via Streamspot. We request the unvaccinated make use of the live-stream option. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to The House of Bread, 27 Chestnut St, Hartford, 06120 or Hartford Catholic Worker, 18 Clark St, Harford, CT 06120. Visit Gretchen's "Book of Memories" at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.

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Masi, Carmine



Carmine Masi, 91, of West Hartford passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 19, 2022, with his loving family by his side. He was born in Castelgrande, Italy and came to the Hartford area in 1971. He lived in West Hartford since 1980. He was a retired Machine Operator from Barridon Corporation, Hartford. Carmine enjoyed life to its fullest. Always at his happiest when his family would gather for the traditional Italian Sunday dinners. He was an extremely hard worker, dedicated and determined to provide for his family and give them the life they deserved. Summer weekends were spent with loved ones and friends at Rocky Neck Beach, where he would bring everything but the kitchen sink providing a feast for all. An avid gardener, his grape vines were his prized possession and loved turning the grapes harvested into homemade wine. Along with tending to his furry pets (chickens & rabbits), his greatest joy was watching his grandchildren chasing and playing with the animals in the yard. He is survived by his six children and their spouses, Gerardo & Vincenza Masi of Myrtle Beach, Maria Giuseppa Maimone of Glastonbury, Angelo & Pam Masi of Glastonbury, Cathy & Tony Santos of Newington, Maria & Richard Kulowski of Newington, and Teresa & Sebastian Giannone of Farmington: two sisters, Teresa Muro of Montreal, & Vita Maria Nardi of West Hartford. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren who were the love of his life; Carmine, Lina, Salvatore, Anthony M., Sandra, Alyssa, Roberto, Matthew, Jennifer, Gabriella, Anthony K., Stephen, Michael, Alexander and Andrew; and 8 great grandchildren; Nicholas, Isabella, Olivia, Madeline, Gianvito, Ansley, Leonello & Giuliana, along with many nephews & nieces. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 64 years Pasqualina (Bove); parents, Gerardo & Maria Giuseppa; and brothers Giuseppe, Antonio, & Angelo. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Friday, February 25, 2022, from 9:00-10:30 am at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave, Newington followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 am at St. Mark the Evangelist Church, 467 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford. He will be lovingly laid to rest at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, where he will join his beloved wife in eternal life. The family would like to give their thanks to Apple Rehab of Rocky Hill for their great care and support that was given to their dad. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 200 Executive Blvd S #4B, Southington, CT 06489 or alz.org/ct. To share a memory with Carmine's family. Please visit us at www.duksa.net.

DUKSA

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Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.

OBITUARIES

Good, Justin Davis



Justin D. Good, age 39, passed away Thursday, February 17th, after a brief but courageous battle with cancer.
Justin was born in Exeter, NH, attended public schools in Farmington, CT, graduated high school from Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire, and attended college at both Evergreen State University in Olympia, WA and Southern Connecticut State University, where he was working on a degree in library science. He was employed by the Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill, CT and the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library in Berlin, CT, jobs that he loved.
Justin was a gentle soul with a passion for books, poetry, animals and music, but who also had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed the silliness of professional wrestling. He is survived by his sister Katie, his parents Peter and Jane, his maternal grandmother, many aunts, uncles and cousins.
His family wishes to thank the staff on the 6th floor at UConn John Dempsey Hospital, and the hospice team at accentCare, who provided continuous care and compassion for Justin. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 10 a.m., at Memorial United Methodist Church, 867 West Avon Road, Avon CT. In lieu of flowers, please consider honoring Justin's love of animals and his concern for this fragile earth by making a donation in his memory to the Wildlife Conservation Society at https://secure.wcs.org/donate/make-tribute-gift

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Jasminski, Christine (Campbell)



Christine Jasminski, 92, of Enfield, died Saturday, February 19, 2022 at her home.
Christine Jasminski was born on October 12, 1929 in Enfield, CT, the daughter of Andrew and Annie Campbell. She married August Jasminski on November 11, 1950. He predeceased her on October 28, 1998. Christine graduated from Enfield High School in 1947 and began work with the State Employment service. She worked at Bigelow Sanford, Pratt & Whitney, then ended her career at Fiskars while simultaneously performing partner office functions for State Line Construction. She spent her retirement working part time until her early eighties while actively managed commercial real estate until her passing. She enjoyed sailing, gardening, knitting and embroidery. She was an industrious, fiercely independent, hardworking woman.
Mrs. Jasminski is survived by her loving daughter, Paula Jasminski, and three sons: August (Gus) Jasminski, Jr. and wife Donna, Daniel (Dan) Jasminski and wife Joyce, and Michael Jasminski and wife Mary. She deeply loved her seven grandchildren: Robert (Rob) Mackenzie, Lauren Babchuck (Sam), Grace Mathiason (Christopher), Alexandra Jasminski (Patrick), Amanda Jasminski (Amanda M), Richard Jasminski (Chey), and Andrew Jasminski (Emilee). She leaves four beloved great-grandchildren: Oliver, Hazel, Amelia and Remington. Christine was a wonderful mother and grandmother and loved her children and grandchildren more than anything. She enjoyed many international travels with family and friends, but especially enjoyed her adventurous trips with her grandchildren. She will be greatly missed.
She is survived by her cherished sister Joan Summers and husband John of Vernon, CT, and was predeceased by her brothers: Gordon Campbell, Andrew (Clare) Campbell, Donald Campbell, and Collin Campbell. She recently enjoyed a family reunion with many nieces and nephews and was happy to share her family history.
Calling hours will be held from 4p.m. to 7p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2022 at Browne Memorial Chapels, 48 Shaker Rd., Enfield Ct 06082. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at St. Martha's Church, Enfield, Ct. Interment will follow at Enfield Street cemetery. Please visit www.brownefuneralchapel.com for photos, tributes, directions, and more service information.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Village for Family and Children or to Foodshare.

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Sisson, Rebecca (McKeithan)



Rebecca "Becky" Caroline McKeithan Sisson, 100, departed this life on February 16, 2022 in St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury, CT. She was born January 14, 1922, the daughter of the late Caroline (Lowe) and Hugh Sylvester McKeithan of North Carolina.
Her father's work took the family to various parts of North Carolina, especially when the Great Depression struck. A graduate of the University of North Caroline in Greensboro, she moved to CT to work at Pratt Whitney during World War II. Here she met both many lifelong friends and her husband, Gerald Tiffany Sisson, with whom she shared 43 years of marriage.
The two settled in Newington in 1950, having three sons all of whom survive: Richard K. (Brenda), William A. (Joy Kaufmann) and Jon E. (Lois Ann) Sisson. She is survived by four grandchildren, Elizabeth (Shawn) Barry, Richard B. (Melanie Winograd), Julia (Emily Barbour), and Spencer (companion, Lexi.) She is also survived by five great-grandchildren, Joseph, James, Noah, Harper and Remy. She was predeceased by her husband and four older brothers, Raymond T., Harold S., Moses Jackson, and Thomas S. McKeithan.
Rebecca taught science and home economics for 25 years at the Martin Kellogg Middle School in Newington. She retired from that profession, worked as a florist for another 15 years, then volunteered at the Lucy Robins Welles Library in Newington for several more years. In the last quarter of a century of her highly productive life, one of her great joys was travel. She visited many countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America as well as Australia and New Zealand. She was a skilled seamstress and a master gardener.
She was a member of the Church of Christ, Congregational, Newington.
Relatives and friends are invited to a funeral service on Saturday, February 26th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Church of Christ, Congregational, 1075 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. She will be lovingly laid to rest in West Meadow Cemetery following the service. To view a livestream of the church service, please visit us at www.newingtonucc.org. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington is serving her family. Memorial gifts may be given to the church in her memory.
To share a memory with her family, please visit us at www.duksa.net.

DUKSA

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Ferrick, Diane



Diane Marie Ferrick, 70, of South Windsor, beloved wife of Thomas J. Ferrick III, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 20, 2022, at St. Francis Hospital, surrounded by her family.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2022, from 4-7 p.m., at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Road, South Windsor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022, 11 a.m., meeting directly at St. Margaret Mary Church, 80 Hayes Rd South Windsor, CT 06074. Attendees are asked to please go directly to the church. Burial will follow in St. Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. 1390 Main Street, Agawam, MA, at 1p.m.

For a full obituary listing and online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

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Kovak, George M

George M. Kovak, 89, died Jan 29, 2022 at Rochester Manor, Rochester, NH. He was born on 23 Oct 1932 in Rockville, CT to Michael and Helen (Kapa) Kovak. He graduated from Chester High School in 1950 and then served in the US Army, Co. E, 3rd Infantry Regiment "Old Guard", Washington, DC. He married Marion Dupre on 5 may 1956 in Old Saybrook where they lived most of their married lives. They celebrated 55 years of marriage prior to Marion's death in Feb 2010. George retired from the Essex Boat Works where he worked as a marine carpenter. He was always available to offer his carpentry skills to those who needed a hand with building, restoring or repairing. He restored horse-drawn sleighs, built furniture and loved car racing. They moved to Fla following his retirement and then to Rochester, NH where he spent his remaining years with his children. George is survived by his daughter Dolores and husband Gene Gauvin; son, George and wife Angel Kovak; daughter Kim and husband Marvin Gerrish; 7 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren and his brother Richard of Old Lyme. He was predeceased by his sister Mary Satagaj of Chester. Private services will be held at the convenience of the family.

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Malenfant, Maynard A.

Maynard A. Malenfant, 79, of Newington, beloved husband of Antoinette (Morin) Malenfant, died Saturday, February 19, 2022. Born in Caribou, Maine, he lived 30 years in Newington. Besides his wife, he leaves four children. Calling hours will be from 9:00 am to 10:30 am Saturday, February 26, 2022 at the Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford. The Funeral Service will be at 10:30 am at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Masks are required. To read the full obituary and to leave online condolences, please visit the Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home website at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com

Sheehan Hilborn Breen
FUNERAL HOME

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Rosa, William



William "Bill" Joseph Rosa, 63, of Andover, died peacefully in his sleep January 31, 2022. He was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts, the son of the late Joseph and Ann Rosa.
Bill was an avid reader, coin collector enthusiast, hiker and lover of the woods. He has a smile that would light up a room, a strong faith, a warm gentle spirit, a lover of learning, always lending a hand to friends and family and not afraid to have a passionate discussion.
Bill is survived by his sister, Phyllis (Rosa) Spragg, of Windsor; niece Sarah Haynes from Winsted; a nephew Bruce Brosnan, of Brooklyn, New York; niece Stephanie Ochoa, of Port St Lucia, Florida; godchildren, Cole and Sean Miller of Windsor, Connecticut and many adopted nieces and nephews.
He is predeceased by his sister, Anne Marie Solomon, his brother Joseph "J" Rosa and his nephew Brian Brosnan.
His family will receive friends on Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 2:30pm to 4:00pm at the Fellowship Hall of Andover Congregational Church, 359 US-6, Andover, CT 06232 for a time of remembrance and a celebration of life. Burial will be in the Spring at the convenience of the family.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Andover Friends of the Library, PO Box 117, Andover CT 06232. For an online memorial guestbook please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

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Scheu, Constance (Waldie)

Constance (Waldie) Scheu, 84, of Cromwell, wife of the late Paul F. Scheu, Sr., passed away on February 15, 2022 at her home. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late George and Mary (Frank) Waldie and had lived in Cromwell all of her life.
Connie had worked at various places including Plumb-Pak in Newington, Loctite in Rocky Hill and Sam's Club in Newington. She was a member of St. John Church in Cromwell. She enjoyed playing baseball with her grandson, was an avid Boston Red Sox fan and loved listening to Elvis.
Connie is survived by two sons, Peter M. Scheu of Cromwell and Paul F. Scheu, Jr. of Stafford Springs; a sister, Marilyn Giddish of Morristown, PA and a grandson, Brian P. Scheu of East Hartford.
Besides her husband and parents, Connie was predeceased by her sister, Georgene Nielsen.
Funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 26th at 10:00 am at the Cromwell Funeral Home 506 Main Street, Cromwell. Interment will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park in Rocky Hill. Family and friends may call at the Cromwell Funeral Home on Friday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. To share memories or to send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

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OBITUARIES

Curry, Mary G.



Our loving mother, grandmother, aunt and sister Mary Curry passed away peacefully on February 20, 2022. She was born in 1937, the second child of Paul and Bridget Guzzardi. Mary grew up in New Britain, proud of her Italian heritage. She graduated from New Britain High School and continued on to Central Connecticut State University before starting her career as a teacher. She left teaching to raise her two boys, Peter and Patrick. Mary then went on to a 35 year career as a librarian at Trinity College, where she made great friends, mentored countless students and assisted faculty with their research. Mary had a love of literature, old movies, British mysteries and politics. Her greatest joy came from spending time with family. Mary is survived by her sons, Peter (wife Suzanna) of Lakeville, MN and Patrick (wife Christine whom she loved as her own daughter), of Glastonbury, and her five grandchildren who were the joy of her life: Erin (husband Jake Tolson), Mitch (fiancé Ari Basche), and Alex (girlfriend Emma Furlong), Jonathan and Andrew. She was Aunt Mary to loving nieces and nephews Linda Marie, Jennifer, Elizabeth, Paul, Bridget and John and their spouses and children. She leaves behind her brother Paul Guzzardi, his wife Francine of New Britain and her sister-in-law Linda Guzzardi of Berlin. She was predeceased by her beloved siblings Carmen Guzzardi and Ann Watson. Friends and family are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial Saturday, February 26 at 10:00AM at St. Paul Church, 485 Alling Street, Kensington. Burial will be private at a later time at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut www.literacycentral.org/donate . To send a condolence, please visit www.FarrellFuneralHome.com.

FARRELL
FUNERAL HOME

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
WILLIAM P 'WILLY' MACAULAY



1/30/34-2/13/22

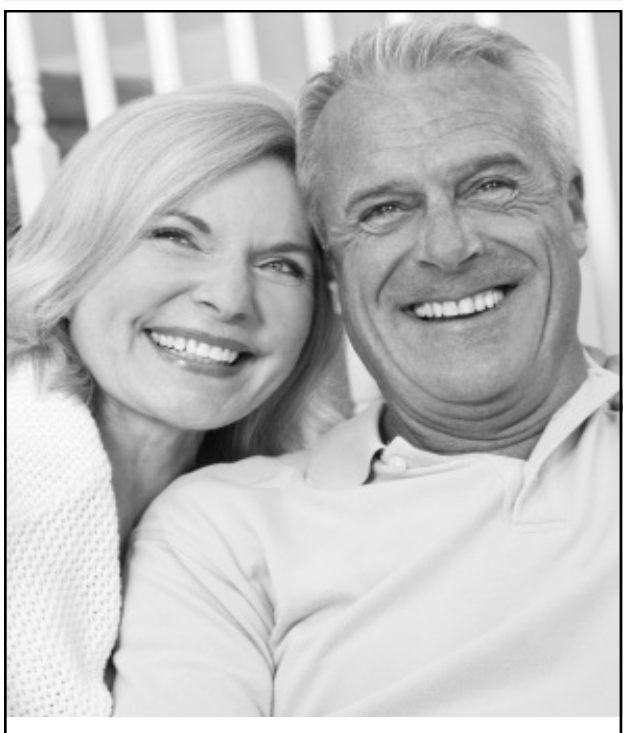
We were so fortunate to have you in our lives. Your love of life and distaste for anything unpleasant are two of the many characteristics that were so lovable. You were a mentor, colleague, fierce friend and competitor, and you lived life as an example for all of us. Your love of caring for patients and teaching surgical residents and medical students is legendary. I owe my career and happiness to your example. "Work hard, play hard" and "Carpe Diem - Seize the Day" were the mottos you lived by. Your quick wit, love of dogs, and unique ability to take a "Pause" at the drop of a hat, instantly and anywhere were remarkable. How awesome it was to celebrate your hole in one at age 83! We were so blessed to have the opportunity to care for you when needed. Now you are with your parents, sisters and no doubt enjoying a cocktail with our beloved BJ. We will always love you. We will celebrate your life with our friends, share stories, and laugh until we cry.
All our love,
Beth and Adam Brady

Dewitt, Jeffrey

Jeffrey Dewitt, 57, of Bristol, passed away on Saturday, January 22, 2022 in Bristol. He was born on July 17, 1964. There will be no services. To leave an online message of condolence, share a memory or a photo, please visit Jeffrey's tribute page at www.OBrien-FuneralHome.com.

O'Brien FUNERAL HOME

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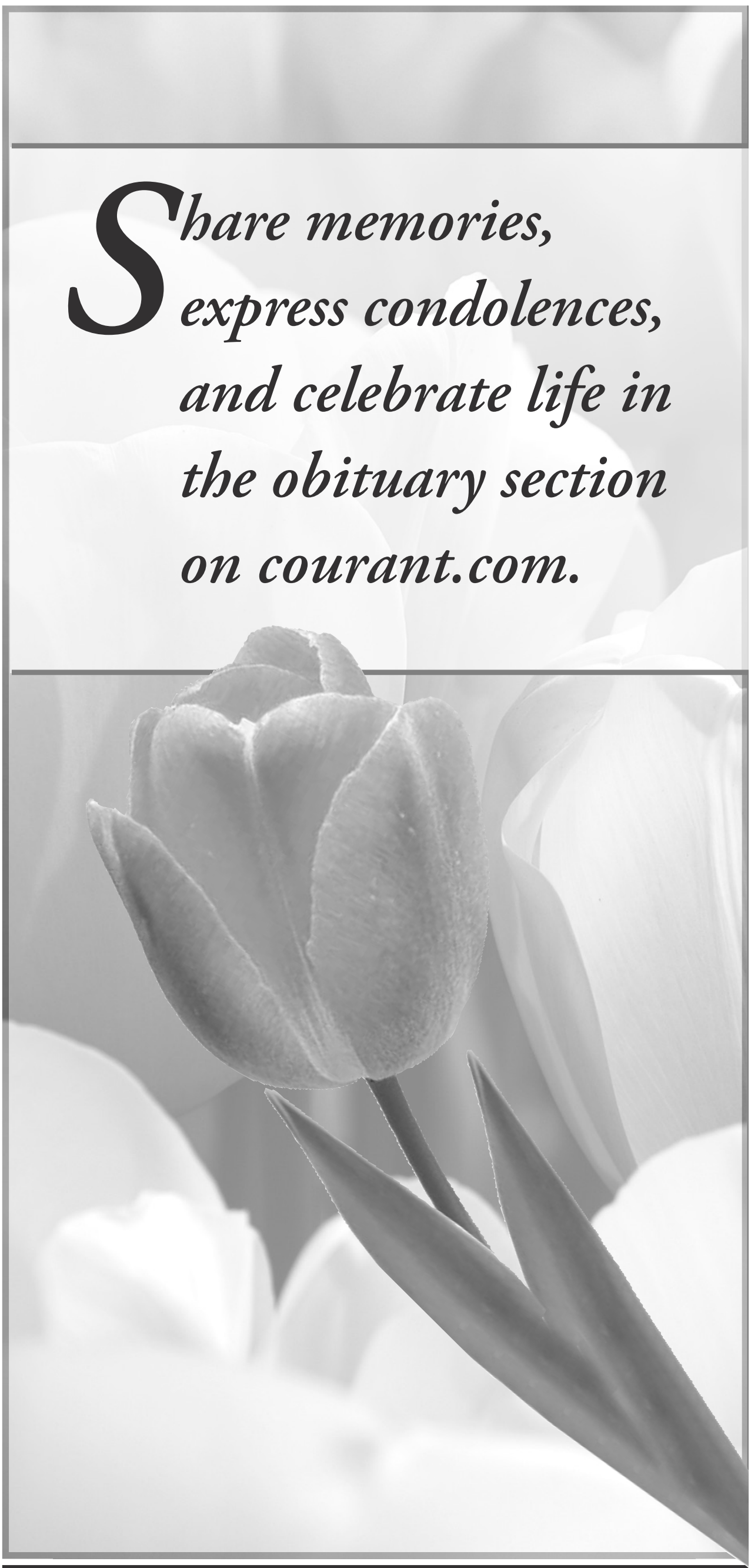
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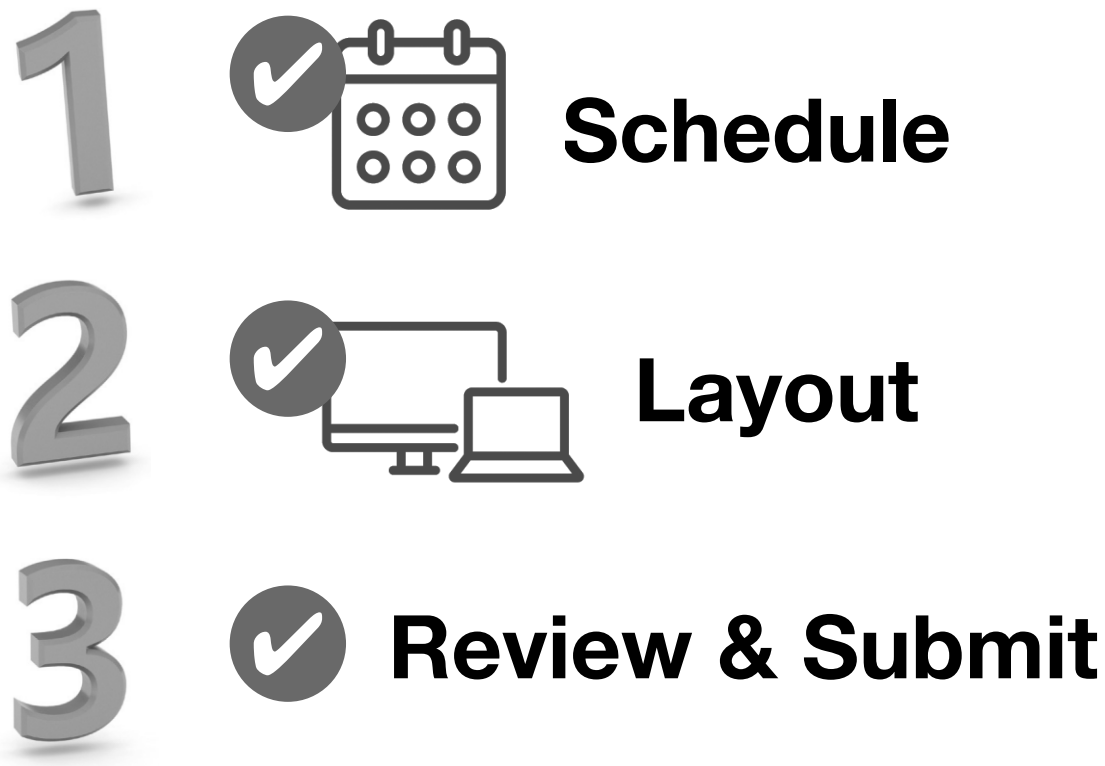
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Groups vow to block aid-in-dying bill

By Daniela Altimari
Hartford Courant

Disability-rights activists on Tuesday vowed to block a bill that would permit terminally-ill patients to obtain a physician's help to end their lives.

Cathy Ludlum, a Manchester woman who has spinal atrophy, said the bill pending before the legislature's public health committee devalues the lives of people with disabilities.

"I see it as a dangerous option," Ludlum said at a press conference.

The public health committee is slated to hold a hearing on the bill Wednesday. Senate bill 88 would allow mentally competent patients with less than six months to live to obtain a prescription from a doctor for a lethal dose of medication. Nine states and the District of Columbia have passed similar laws.

The concept has been raised in Connecticut at least 14 times since 1994. Last year, for the first time, the bill was approved by a legislative committee but died before coming up for a full vote in either the House or the Senate.

The bill's supporters say there are safeguards built into the legislation to ensure that vulnerable people are protected. The measure would require two physicians to sign off on a patient's request and would only be available as an option to people 18 or older who have less than six months to live.

"In spite of claims made by opponents, aid-in-dying laws have proven to work as intended for whom they are intended, and they have for more than 20 years," said Tim Appleton, senior campaign director for Compassion & Choices, a national advocacy group. "It is fact that not one more person dies as a result of aid-in-dying laws but far fewer will suffer."

Ludlum and other advocates fighting the bill say the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted health disparities and the unequal treatment experienced by people with disabilities.

The disability community has long been at "a huge disadvantage medically in terms of getting treatment," Ludlum said. "It's been doubly hard during the pandemic."

"COVID showed us what professionals think of us disabled people," said John Kelly, New England director of Not Dead Yet, an advocacy group opposed to the bill.

"Really this is not the time to be discussing people exiting life when we're having so much trouble keeping everyone alive. The disability community is very frightened by this."

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UConn student Simon Felicione removes his food from a delivery pod at the Brooklyn Dumpling Shop, which opened Tuesday in Storrs. Felicione was one of dozens who came to the restaurant during its first hours of operation, saying he found the automat-restaurant idea "very enticing."
MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Storrs goes back to the future with opening of Brooklyn Dumpling Shop

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

New York City food-world star Stratis Morfogen came to Storrs on Tuesday to oversee the opening of Brooklyn Dumpling Shop, an automat restaurant where almost everything on the menu — burgers, cheesesteaks, pizza, gyro, etc. — is served as a dumpling.

The shop, at 106 Royce Circle, is the first Connecticut location and the first franchise location of the automat in Manhattan that was founded last year by Morfogen.

"It's a new take on previous technology. It's back to the future," says Matt Rusconi, manager at the Storrs shop. "I love that I can bring this to Connecticut."

"All my life I would look at pastrami sandwiches," Morfogen said, and "other huge sandwiches, and I didn't want to eat them, they were so big. But if they put those ingredients into a two-ounce sandwich, I eat them like M&Ms."

Morfogen's founding of Brooklyn Dumpling Shop was inspired by his Brooklyn Chop House, a steakhouse that became famous for wrapping many of its appetizer offerings into dumplings. They became phenomenally popular.

"Four hundred people would eat there one night and there were 400 orders of dumplings," Morfogen said.

The Storrs shop is the first in an ambitious nationwide expansion. Seventeen are set to open this year, 35 in 2023 and 55 in 2024.

"By 2025, we will be opening one every week," Morfogen says.

Rusconi, a native of nearby Lebanon who has opened three restaurants in Storrs he no longer owns (Moe's, MooYah and Wing Stop), heard about Brooklyn Dumpling Shop when it was still under construction. He went down to meet Morfogen.

Turn to Dumpling, *Page 2*

Advocates request removal of cops from schools

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Elaine Lester has made "Purpose in Pain" a mantra.

It's the name of the group she plans to create to support those like her, a survivor of childhood abuse who was labeled a "problem child" from an early age and faced punishment and disciplinary action at school.

It's also what brought Lester, 21, a youth member of Citywide Youth Coalition, to the Legislative Office Building in Hartford Tuesday morning with a coalition of social justice organizations to call for lawmakers to phase out police officers in schools in favor of counselors, the decriminalization of child truancy and transparency for police-led interactions in schools.

"Schools have resources for punishing, but they do not have resources for healing," Lester said. "We need school resource counselors to respond to the behavior of young people that are clearly cries for help."

The rally was the latest step in the "Care Not Cops" campaign run by the Community First Coalition, an alliance of several organizations formed in 2021 to address youth policing in Connecticut.

About two dozen advocates heard from speakers, and chanted in support. Some held signs, their messages simple: "People Not Prisons," "Police-Free Schools" and "Today's Fight For Tomorrow's Freedom."

Gemini Rorie, 27, said he ran into truancy problems while growing up in New Britain. His family didn't have money to buy new clothes, he said, which led to him not wanting to go to school — and facing routine disciplinary action as a result.

Rorie, justice adviser with the Connecticut Justice Alliance, said he is on track to graduate from Gateway Community College

Turn to Cops, *Page 2*

Judge orders primary after Bloomfield Democrats sue their own party registrar

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

BLOOMFIELD — A judge on Tuesday ordered a primary election for the Bloomfield Democratic Town Committee after party members seeking seats on the committee sued their voter registrar.

Judge Matthew Joseph Budzik ordered a primary held on March 15. Attorney Alexander Taubes, representing the plaintiffs, said the order followed a settlement agreement between plaintiffs and defendants.

"This is exactly why the courts exist — to ensure that people can participate in the process and exercise their freedoms," Taubes said.

Plaintiffs in the suit against Democratic registrar Troy Mitchell represented 17 Democrats, who, along with supporting volunteers, collected 578 signatures on nominating petitions, according to documents filed with the lawsuit in Hartford Superior Court.

Plaintiffs Bradley Klein and Paula Jones said they and others collected 99 more signatures than necessary, but Mitchell accepted only 209 of the total, canceling the primary that plaintiffs sought against 65 nominees for the town committee.

"Defendant Mitchell's rulings, rejecting 20 pages because he concluded that fraud or forgery had taken place on them, were erroneous," the plaintiffs contend.

The plaintiffs asked the court to order Mitchell to accept the petition signatures and order the town to hold a primary for Democratic Town Committee on the second Tuesday in March, one week later than the date set by law due to the delay caused by Mitchell's allegedly illegal actions, according to the suit.

In a letter to the town clerk dated Jan. 3, Mitchell wrote that numerous petition pages were submitted in violation of instructions and law. Mitchell cited state law requiring that a signature "must be the personal signature of the signer" and no one may sign for another person.

Plaintiffs said they would prove that signatures Mitchell questioned were genuine and the signers will testify they signed in the presence of a circulator and signed for no other person.

A motion to dismiss the suit stressed Mitchell's discretion in rejecting petition signatures. Neither he nor a representative of the town committee could be reached Tuesday.

As part of the settlement, Taubes said, the registrar will certify the petitions.

"We are very pleased that the town of Bloomfield decided to do the right thing for the 17 members of the challenge slate and may the best candidates win," Taubes said.

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Budget chief: 'Broader steering' concerns 'never came to my knowledge'

By Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

The state budget chief says she saw a bid dispute — and no inkling of scandal — in a contractor's complaint to her on April 29, 2020.

The contractor, Stamford Wrecking Company, complained that Melissa McCaw's agency, the Office of Policy and Management, was undermining competitive bidding laws on school demolition and hazardous-material disposal contracts. Specifically, the contractor said, OPM urged the town of Groton to set aside open bidding in favor of hiring from the state's limited emergency bid list of approved contractors.

The response was delegated to legal staff and McCaw's deputy, Konstantinos Diamantis — the official in charge of school construction grants.

Today, the Stamford Wrecking complaint made in the spring of 2020 is colored by recent revelations that the FBI is investigating school construction and other programs overseen by Diamantis and allegations by officials in several towns that Diamantis pressured them to hire certain contractors — including one that employed his daughter, Anastasia Diamantis.

McCaw, speaking about the allegations regarding her former deputy for the first time, said the Stamford Wrecking complaint narrowly focused on the propriety of OPM urging the use of a state-approved list for hazardous-material abatement, often a wildly unpredictable expense in school construction.

Turn to Concerns, *Page 2*



Franchise owner Matt Rusconi, left, prepares dumplings during the Brooklyn Dumpling Shop's opening day. The automat-style restaurant allows food to be ordered on an app or from tablets in the restaurant and then picked up from heated or chilled delivery lockers. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS**

Dumpling

from Page 1

He tasted Morfogen's dumplings and saw the possibilities of the automat.

"What with the labor shortage and the mode of to-go changing, I was curious about the automat concept," Rusconi said.

The UConn students targeted by the new location of Brooklyn Dumpling Shop are too young to recall the glory days of automats. In the early 20th century, automats — which are essentially multi-pod vending machines the size of a store — could be found in any large northeastern city.

The food for the automat is not premade. It is cooked to order and hot. The lockers are heated to 140 degrees. Frozen lockers are at 38 degrees for ice cream and drinks.

Dumpling flavors, which start at $5 a serving, include PBJ, pastrami, Reuben, pepperoni pizza, bacon cheeseburger, cheesesteak, pork and chives, kung pao chicken, short rib, French onion soup, crab soup, veggie soup, seafood, chicken and ginger, Impossible burger with vegan cheese, Impossible kung pao burger, Tex Mex, cheddar burger, Peking duck. The soup dumplings have broth inside them and are floating in broth.

Sides and desserts include waffle fries, onion rings, Asian coleslaw and apple and chocolate desserts.

Cro'Sumplings are breakfast dumplings, with fillings including bacon-egg-cheese, sausage-egg-cheese, spinach-egg-feta and other morning favorites



UConn students Colin Varnet and Ingrid Magaloanes order dumplings Tuesday.

A mural in the shop is a photograph of Audrey Hepburn at an automat. Marilyn Monroe sang about an automat in "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend." A documentary about automats is now showing in New York.

Cynthia van Zelm, executive director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, said the town is excited by the new restaurant.

"Automats are contactless, which is important in this day and age," she says.

Morfogen came up with the idea of Brooklyn Dumpling Shop in 2018, but the pandemic has made it a more of-the-moment concept, as the automat format de-emphasizes interaction with service personnel. All transactions are done by credit card online or at a kiosk in the store. Orders can be placed hours in advance. Those who order get a text when their food is ready. A link in the text calls up a QR code. Scanning that code in the store will trip open a locker door, where their food is.

"People can be in and out in literally 30 seconds," Morfogen said.

Morfogen is also known for the restaurants Philippe Chow, Club Rouge and Gotham City Diner. He, with his partners and singer Patti LaBelle, are bringing a frozen version of the dumplings to Walmart.

The Storrs site is open 11 a.m. to midnight seven days a week.

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Cops

from Page 1

this spring and will later attend the University of New Haven. He says his path is a success story — one that not everyone he knows can tell.

"Some people are still locked behind a wall, or [struggling with] their childhood trauma. That's where it all stems from," Rorie said.

It's unclear how much traction the coalition's proposals will get with lawmakers, as crime and juvenile justice reform traditionally make for sensitive subjects in election years.

Lawmakers have offered a variety of plans to address a rising youth mental health crisis and others aimed at a wave of car thefts police say are often committed by teens. On Tuesday, state Senate Republican leaders released draft language of a youth opportunity and criminal justice bill.

Mental health experts have used the stresses brought on by the pandemic and its ripple effects to help explain the rise in some forms of crime, as well as a rise in behavioral issues among students who have endured numerous challenges, from remote learning to the deaths from illness of family members.

The rise in mental health challenges in students — and the compounding factor of shortages in teachers and administrative staff — was highlighted Tuesday by Andrew Brown, a New London educator and the city's poet laureate.

Brown called for more action to address the state's teacher shortage, particularly teachers of color, and for schools to face up to the "hard questions."

"Are we more concerned with maintaining a peaceful and quiet classroom, or are we concerned with truly reaching and serving all of our students where they are?" Brown said. "If we truly wish for our students to grow, then we need to lead by example."

Social justice advocates argue that for too long, schools have relied on police to intervene in situations where behavioral issues arise.

A 2020 report by the state Office of the Child Advocate found that Waterbury schools were too often deferring to police instead of crisis intervention services to handle child behavior, the report found.

Children with disabilities, most often autism, were most frequently impacted by repeat calls. According to data from the Center for Children's Advocacy, Black students are also subject to school-based arrests at disproportionate rates.

"It's almost as if we think that cops are hammers, and every issue we have in schools is a nail," said Addys Castillo, executive director of Citywide Youth Coalition and former correctional officer.

In the report, State Child Advocate Sarah Eagan recommended that the state ban school resource officers, among other recommendations.

Robert Goodrich, executive director of Waterbury-based RACCE, said Tuesday it was "time to invest in alternatives to policing in our schools so that our communities can begin the process of fully recovering from the school-to-prison pipeline."

"While the hardening of our school campuses and police presence in and around our schools increases, so do the hardships and inequities that Black and Brown students are forced to carry with them no matter where they go," Goodrich said in a statement.

State Sen. Gary Winfield, a New Haven Democrat who chairs the legislature's Judiciary Committee, last year introduced legislation that would have phased out school resource officers from Connecticut schools.

The bill came as Middletown school officials weighed whether to scale down the presence of police officers in schools, with lawmakers and advocates locked in discussions in the wake of the murder of George Floyd.

The bill was not passed, but Winfield says his stance on the school-based officers hasn't changed.

"I don't think that police officers should be performing the role of mental health counselors, counselors, peer groups, and other things like that," Winfield said Tuesday during a virtual press availability.

In 2015, the state adopted legislation that required local and regional school boards that assign a school resource officer to enter a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement that clearly set out the officer's role and responsibility.

Winfield said that before the memorandum requirements, "it tended to turn into police work, not school discipline, particularly in communities of color," when police handled school discipline.

"At the very least," Winfield said, he wants to hear discussions about potential "rules of the road" beyond the memoranda.

On Tuesday morning, Lester detailed the "once a problem, always a problem" phenomenon in schools. For the kids who run into trouble at an early age, particularly students of color, the "problem child" label tends to stick. "It follows you everywhere you go," she told the Courant.

But she's pleased to see campaigns like "Care Not Cops" taking effect, and other activists who are finding purpose in their pain. She said she wishes the movement was stronger when she was younger, noting that many of her friends are still struggling with the challenges she's faced.

"Maybe if people took the time to stand up like they are now, maybe they could've been saved," Lester said.

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Concerns

from Page 1

"What is now coming out in the press, which I'm extremely disturbed by, it's far beyond that," said McCaw. "At no point had any municipality or superintendent ever raised to my attention concerns about broader steering. It never came to my knowledge."

Despite state law placing the function in the Department of Administrative Services, responsibility for overseeing state-reimbursed school construction came from DAS to OPM at her insistence late 2019. It was a condition of Diamantis, the director of the Office of School Construction Grant and Review, becoming her deputy.

Diamantis, a Democrat who represented Bristol in the state House of Representatives for 14 years before losing a primary in 2006, arrived at OPM with a reputation as an aggressive and sometimes caustic bureaucratic infighter. He had been overseeing construction at DAS since 2015.

To accommodate McCaw, the Lamont administration signed off on a memorandum of understanding that temporarily removed the Office of School Construction Grant and Review from DAS and grafted it onto OPM, despite objections by state lawmakers. They saw the move as potentially politicizing state reimbursements that largely had been set by formula.

"The reasons for keeping school construction at DAS were clear," said Sen. Cathy Osten, D-Sprague, co-chair of the Appropriations Committee. "It would not be perceived as a political function, where OPM is far more perceived as a political function."

Now, the move engineered by McCaw has entangled her in a scandal from which she is trying to keep a distance.

McCaw said Diamantis never told her that his daughter, Anastasia Diamantis, had been hired by a school construction management company that worked on one of the state-reimbursed school projects.

Diamantis was fired as her deputy on Oct. 28 — not by her, but by the governor through his chief of staff, Paul Mounds. That night, Diamantis cast his dismissal as a consequence of his defending McCaw against what he characterized as disrespect towards a Black woman by Mounds and Josh Geballe, the chief operating officer.

The OPM position held by McCaw did not have the same status in the Lamont administration as it did in others. Lamont's creation of the chief operating officer's position, then designating Geballe as the coordinator of the state's COVID-19 response, was a source of tension between McCaw and the governor's staff.

McCaw never disavowed Diamantis' characterization of her being disrespected, not in October or in an interview with CT Mirror over the weekend.

"As the deputy secretary, he was privy to interactions and the work of the agency. He saw a lot. He certainly was a witness to what it has been like for me as the first Black female OPM secretary," McCaw said. "And I'll leave it at that."

When Diamantis was fired as deputy secretary at OPM, a political appointment, and retired from his civil service job in charge of school construction rather than accept a suspension, the issue was his role in the July 2020 hiring of Anastasia Diamantis as an executive assistant to Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo Jr.

At the time he hired the daughter, it was later revealed, Colangelo was lobbying the father and others at OPM for help in securing raises for senior prosecutors.

Colangelo filed for retirement on Feb. 9, a week after the release of an investigative report commissioned by Lamont and produced by former U.S. Attorney Stanley A. Twardy Jr. It concluded that Colangelo had not been credible in his account of her hiring.

McCaw said she learned from Twardy when he interviewed her that Anastasia Diamantis also had been working part-time for Construction Advocacy Professionals, or CAP. Tolland's school superintendent has said Kosta Diamantis had pressured the town to hire CAP.

McCaw said she has not questioned Diamantis since his departure about the allegations against him.

"I have expressed my displeasure about what I'm seeing," McCaw said. "I'm the first Black female OPM secretary, and I've worked very hard to build my career and to bring significant progress to the state of Connecticut. So obviously I'm not happy at all with what is going on and any perception that it gives to my leadership. And he's heard that from me directly."

She declined to directly answer when asked if her view of her former deputy has changed.

"Look, I have built my career on work, ethics, integrity and competence. And what I will say is that I am deeply disturbed by the allegations at hand," she said. "I'm going to respect the process. I will participate in the process to ensure we get to the bottom of this."

Diamantis has said any suggestion that municipalities use the emergency list of approved demolition contractors was intended to save money, not assist a favored few.

Emails show OPM officials responded to complaints

Emails recently obtained by CT Mirror show that the Stamford Wrecking complaint was not ignored.

The complaint from Irving Goldblum, the president of Stamford Wrecking, was addressed to McCaw and Geballe, the latter in his capacity as the commissioner of DAS, a job he continued to hold after Lamont also named him as chief operating officer.

Ray Garcia, a lawyer representing the contractor, forwarded a copy of Goldbum's complaint by an email sent at 1:10 p.m. May 4, 2020 to Gareth D. Bye, the director of legal affairs at OPM.

"May we have a conversation about this before it becomes a full blown formal dispute," Garcia asked Bye. "I think the process is not authorized by any statute of which I am aware and circumvents the public bidding statutes generally. But, as I said, I would like the benefit of OPM's thoughts before we take more formal action, or decide not to take action."

Bye responded at 2:15 p.m., telling him that Diamantis manages the school construction grants and Kevin Kopetz runs the legal unit that handles school construction issues.

With Diamantis, the OSCGR personnel physically relocated from DAS offices in a state complex on the riverfront in downtown Hartford to OPM's offices on Capitol Avenue, a short walk from the Legislative Office Building and state Capitol.

Bye copied Diamantis and Kopetz on his reply to Garcia. A conference call with Garcia was scheduled for the next day. Participants in the call said the tone was cordial, with both sides acknowledging the challenges in controlling hazmat removal costs.

"It was great to meet you, even on the phone, and hear your thoughts on school construction. In many instances your views are identical to mine and I come from the Contractor's side of the industry," Garcia told Diamantis in a follow up email. "I look forward to meeting you in person and as I said I am always willing to help out, speak and come and listen or furnish research or otherwise participate at any level of government to to make our great industry more responsive to the biggest user of construction services."

But Garcia and his client did not change its view that open competitive bidding was required for the work, whatever the motivation for taking a shortcut of allowing municipalities to hire from the emergency bid list, which had only four contractors. Garcia eventually was assured the policy would be clarified.

On Dec. 23, 2020, Goldblum wrote again to McCaw and Geballe, as well as to Kopetz and Manchester Mayor Jay Moran, with a new complaint that Manchester was using the emergency bid list instead of open competitive bidding hazmat work at Buckley Elementary School.

"It is our belief that the State of Connecticut, through OPM, has directed that Manchester skip the public bidding requirement and utilize the emergency response list," Goldblum wrote.

On Saturday, Dec. 26, Geballe emailed Diamantis, asking him to address the concerns raised in the letter. Copied on the email were McCaw, Kevin Kopetz and Bob Clark, who then was the governor's general counsel.

Diamantis wrote to Goldblum on Jan. 27, 2021, denying OPM had directed Manchester to skip open bidding.

On Feb. 2, 2021, Garcia asked Attorney General William Tong to intervene, saying his client had information that OPM directed municipalities to hire contractors off the limited emergency bid list for at least six school construction projects.

"We objected to that for several specific projects and OPM has advised us that it stopped the practice," Garcia said. "However, we have been advised that OPM now advises municipalities that the State will not reimburse the municipality for certain work unless the municipality utilizes a contract off the State's emergency asbestos abatement contractor list."

The governor's office said a clarification issued on March 2, 2021 by Diamantis resolved the matter to the satisfaction of Garcia's client. McCaw also said she was advised by legal staff that "those matters had been addressed through the collaborative work of the AG's office, DAS, OPM counsel and the former director," Diamantis.

Garcia said that assessment was incorrect.

"We disagree with the Secretary," Garcia said. "We continued to raise our concerns to the AG's office and the governor's office through correspondence and meetings.

Canton planners consider request for road

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

The owner of rocky land near the defunct LaTrattoria restaurant on Route 44 in Canton wants a permit to grade part of the property for future development, but so far he isn't specifying what he proposes to build there.

Property owner Mark Greenberg told Canton planning officials last month that he is considering a Cumberland Farms convenience store on the Canton part of the land, and housing and a restaurant in a much larger Simsbury tract just to the north.

But Greenberg hasn't submitted any proposals for those ideas.

He's still encountering resistance from neighbors who successfully turned back his original plan for an electric vehicle showroom and 20-pump gas station.

Greenberg is asking the town for permission to truck away more than 2,000 cubic yards of earth and rock from the property. That would grade it enough to accommodate a 60-foot-wide access road linking Route 44 and the Simsbury part of his land — but without any formally declared plan for what to do with it.

Before voting to approve or reject Greenberg's bid for an excavation permit, the planning and zoning commission is consulting with town attorneys.

In a back-and-forth session with commissioners that has grown contentious, Greenberg's attorney has argued that Canton has full authority to grant his client's request even when there isn't a specific development proposal to accompany it.

Commissioners have twice put off a vote while they get further legal guidance.



A rock ledge juts out along Route 44 near the defunct LaTrattoria restaurant in Canton. Nearby, developer Mark Greenberg wants to level a section of trap rock to create an access road to a future development of land in Canton and Simsbury. **DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT**

Greenberg's plan last year for a 23,000-square-foot EV showroom and Noble gas station with a convenience store and small food shops drew extensive protests from homeowners in Canton, Avon and Simsbury.

Organized under the name Canton Advocates for Responsible Expansion, the opponents forced several prolonged hearings and ultimately succeeded when Canton's planners rejected the proposal in June.

Among their core complaints was that the plan entailed extensive blasting to flatten the trap rock along Route 44 at Canton's eastern gateway. That would have created about 10,000 dump truck loads of rock and soil.

Greenberg's current application has come under fire from a smaller number of property owners.

"I'm concerned by the developer's refusal to state the intended use of the proposed grading and access road," resident Hayley Colding said. "They claim that use is irrelevant, but our own town regulations represent our town character, our values, our health, our well-being. This development in my perspective threatens all of those."

Colding, president of the Connecticut Botanical Society, said destroying the trap-rock ridges on the site would damage numerous species and "mar a beloved and ecologically important resource ..."

He said the impacts of demolishing the natural rock area would "extend in every direction."

David Sinish, of Dyer Avenue, agreed, warning that any damage to the property could never be restored in quite the same way. He said authorizing the access route and grading makes no sense without a site plan and proposal.

"If we don't know the whole plan, how can you possibly approve any part of it?" he asked.

But in a written report Kevin Solli, Greenberg's engineering consultant, concluded otherwise.

"The proposed application will not have any adverse impacts to historic or unique environmental resources on-site or in the immediate vicinity," Solli wrote. "Although the property does contain a heavily wooded trap rock ridge, the proposed earthwork activities requested under this application will have a minimal impact on the scenic character of the area, as any rock blasting will be contained to the 60-foot wide access road proposed to connect Route 44 to the rear of the property.

"The majority of the trap rock ridge along Route 44 will remain untouched as part of this application."

Canton's planning and zoning commission has been reviewing his request with the its attorney.

Canton has already approved a new restaurant for the site of LaTrattoria, which closed years ago and is awaiting demolition. That property is alongside Greenberg's.

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Baron Von Zipple, left, and Professor Adam Smasher, of the band The Eternal Frontier, share a moment at a previous ball with Linda-Jean LaCosaire. **COURTESY PHOTO**

'Stupid Cupid' ball heads to Manchester Feb. 26-27

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

MANCHESTER — The seventh annual Stupid Cupid Steampunk Ball is coming to Manchester on Saturday and Sunday, with an entire weekend of events planned.

The name "Stupid Cupid" is a play on the idea that the event, although having a Valentine's Day theme, is never held on Valentine's Day. The ball is a production of Oddball Newt Productions, in coordination with Silk City Steampunk, according to the event's coordinator, David Carlson, founder/owner of both organizations, as well as 12 Months of Steampunk.

Forty-five vendor tables will be filled with crafters of steampunk accessories, jewelry, clothing, precious stones and toys, as well as photographers, authors, and others.

The series of events within the event begins on Saturday with Splendid teapot racing, in which remote-controlled chassis racers have ornamental teapots as bodies.

"It sounds strange, but it's rather fun," Carlson said.

Other daylong activities include a roving sea shanty chanteuse who will be making the rounds, and an exhibition featuring George Eastman, founder of Eastman Kodak, who helped bring roll film into the mainstream, back in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Panel discussions include the topics of intuition, "Love in Fiction and Steampunk," "Language of the Fans and Flowers" — about the art of holding and folding hand fans, "Frugal Formalwear" — steampunk costuming on a budget, "Influence of Victorian Fantasy," "History of Absinthe," and "War of the Worlds — What if it really happened?"

An authentic British tea will be served, with three different sittings.

One of the signature events will be a meet-and-greet with featured U.K. band "Victor and the Bully," during which the band and guests will be peeling potatoes.

"Peeling potatoes is kind of a thing with them," Carlson explained. "Peelers and potatoes are going to be provided. Those potatoes will be later used, the next day, for home fries for tomorrow's brunch."

The Main Stage will feature a fashion show, with New York designer Kristen Costa, who specializes in Haute Couture, who will be premiering a new line of clothes called "In A Strange Land."

The stage will also have performances from musical artists Adelaide Punkin from Torrington, Frenchy and the Punk from New York, leading up to headliners Victor and the Bully.

On Sunday, the day begins at 10 a.m. with brunch (separate ticket needed) provided by Oak, Ash and Thorn Tavern. Frenchy and the Punk will be temporarily renaming themselves "Frenchy and the Brunch" and providing musical entertainment.

Doors for the remaining events open at noon on Saturday. Featured again will be the teapot races, sea shanties and the Eastman exhibit, as well as board games and Dungeons and Dragons.

Sunday's panel discussions' topics include Victorian mourning traditions, Victorian textiles and the Industrial Age, The Druid's Deadly Darlings, and In a Strange Land.

Featured on the Main Stage on Sunday will be the band Francois Never Told Me, at 1:30 p.m.

Carlson said the event is the biggest one he puts on, and has grown in each of its seven years.

"We're hoping to turn Connecticut, which is known as the land of steady habits, into the land of steamy habits," he said.

The Stupid Cupid Ball takes place at Cheney Hall in Manchester starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday and noon on Sunday. The event is family-friendly and fun for all ages. Attendees are welcome to wear steampunk attire, but "muggles" (people wearing everyday attire) are welcome.

"People who don't have an outfit don't have to feel pressured to come with one," Carlson said.

For more information, visit the "Stupid Cupid Steampunk Ball VII" page on Facebook. Tickets are available through EventBrite, or at the door.

Would you help keep a frog log?

Connecticut wildlife conservationists seek volunteers for study on state's amphibians

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

The frog chorus that welcomes warmer weather in Connecticut — from the spring peepers' high-pitched beep and whistle to the wood frogs' quacking call — is the focus of a statewide data collection effort now enlisting volunteers.

"The data will be much more important if we can get people from across the state to participate," Dave Sigworth, spokesman for the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, said Tuesday.

Connecticut's chapter of Frog Watch USA is a collaboration of the aquarium, Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History and the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport.

Frog Watch volunteers are trained to identify calls of 10 species. Virtual training sessions are set for Thursday and March 9 and 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register at maritimeaquarium.org/community-science. Trained volunteers (recommended age is 12 and over) select a local wetland to monitor through the spring and summer and submit data.

Frogs are barometers of environmental health. Many populations have been in decline, and scientists behind Frog Watch USA (a program of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums) seek to understand the scope, geographic scale and cause of the declines.

State wildlife biologist Mike Ravesi called the program a great way to engage the public in meaningful data collection. Ravesi said he and other scientists monitor the Frog Watch data, looking in particular for identifications of the endangered eastern spadefoot and the northern leopard frog, a species of special concern, along with Fowler's toad and the Atlantic Coast leopard frog, which also appear to be in decline. The Frog Watch data also helps keep scientists aware of wider trends in Connecticut's frog populations, Ravesi said.

The usual suspects harming frogs in the state and nationwide, Ravesi said, include loss of habitat due to development, climate change, hazardous road crossings and diseases.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth @courant.com.

"The data will be much more important if we can get people from across the state to participate."

— Dave Sigworth, spokesman for the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk



A spring peeper calling. **FILE**

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF James R. Grieder, Sr, Late of Clinton (22-0049)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 17, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Michele J. Grieder
c/o KRISTEN BROOKE PROUT, RWC LLC ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW, 330 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

2/23/22 7153895

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
177 Brickyard Rd, Farmington, CT 06032
Auction date- March 9, 2022 at 1 PM
Sherry Reyes Unit V19 clothes and beds, home goods.
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
Please run this on February 23rd and March 2nd, in zone 1. Please use a continuous wrap format to reduce size and send affidavit for each ad to address below. Also, please send proof of ad via email to ensure accuracy.
2/23, 3/2/2022 7140570

LEGAL NOTICE
OLD SAYBROOK
INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
NOTICE OF DECISION

At their February 17, 2022 regular meeting, the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Old Saybrook, Connecticut **APPROVED** the following regulated activities:

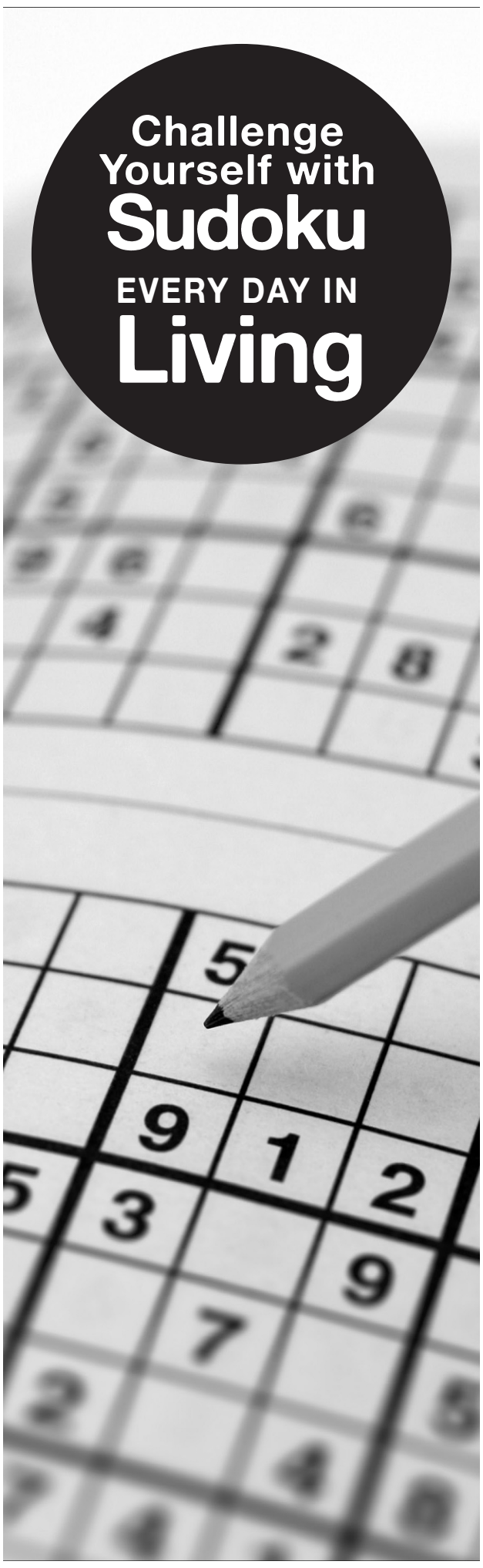
22-001 "Foster" Application to Conduct a Regulated Activity
Deposit fill to close off basement opening and restore original grade, remove blacktop driveway and install Bilco door within the 100' upland review area.
110 Sheffield Street (Map 31/Lot 3)
Owner: Nicholas and Inger Foster
APPROVED

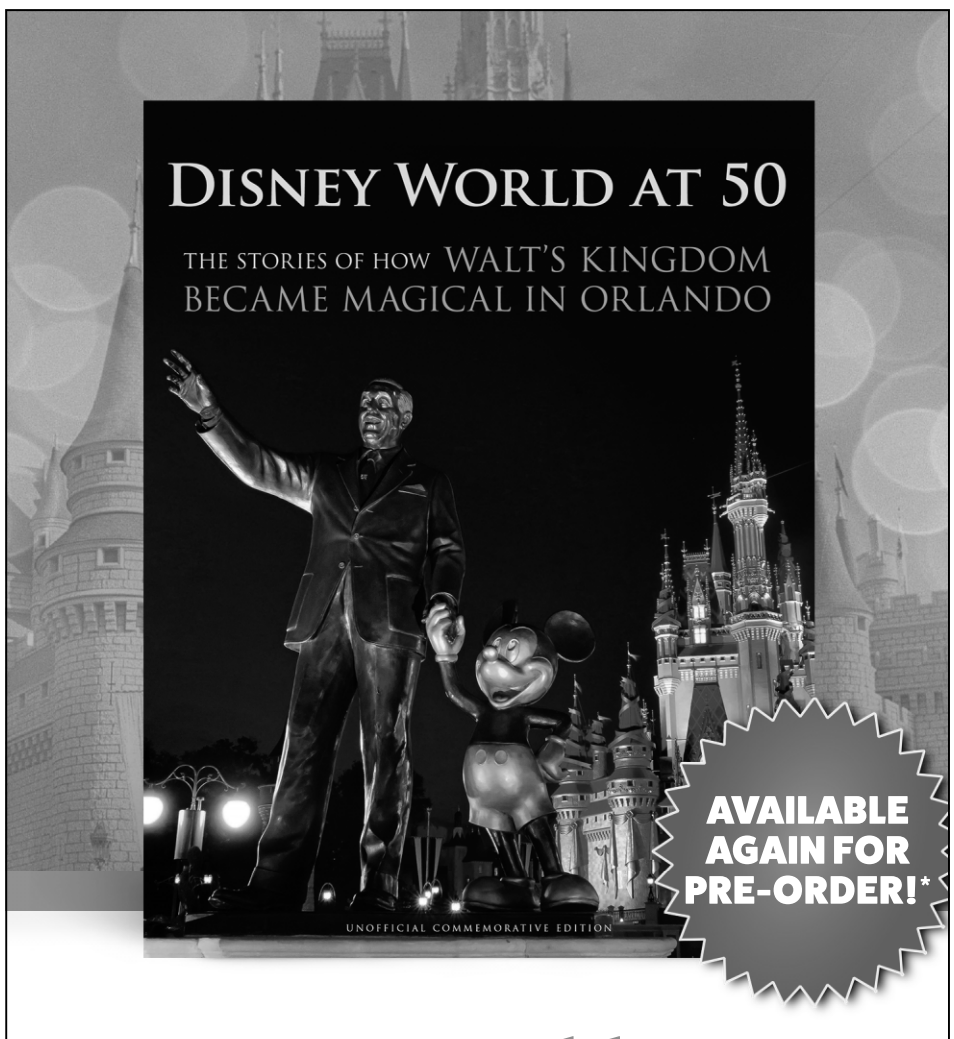
Copies of the permit and plans are on file in the Land Use Department, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street, between the weekday hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Dated at Old Saybrook, Connecticut this 23RD day of February, 2022.

OLD SAYBROOK
INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
J. Colin Heffernan, Chairman
2/23/2022 7154264







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TRISHA KRAUSS/
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Getting a dog's-eye view

Pandemic puppies have changed the way people see (and smell) their neighborhoods

By Ronda Kaysen
The New York Times

About a half-mile from my house, a red knit scarf has been wrapped around a telephone pole for almost two years. Don't ask me why it's there, but almost every day I pay it a visit with my dog, Bowie. Fortunately for him, the scarf, faded to a sad shade of pink, has slipped far enough down the pole that he can now give it a proper sniff.

The mystery scarf is one of the many details about my neighborhood that Bowie has alerted me to since we got him in 2020. His addition to our family was the result of a relentless campaign by my very bored and socially isolated children.

Like millions of Americans, I climbed on the pandemic puppy bandwagon, having been persuaded that a pooch would improve our home life, serving as a furry distraction from the tedium. Like most clear-eyed mothers, I also assumed that after the newness wore off for the children, I'd be stuck doing most of the work.

However, as a first-time dog owner, I did not anticipate how thoroughly and enthusiastically a dog would demand that I see my neighborhood from a different perspective.

The scarf was just the beginning. I have also learned that my neighborhood is home to many, many more stray cats than I ever imagined. Ask Bowie; he announces their presence as loudly as he possibly can.

I now know that the neighbor with the Pekingese takes his dog out several times a day but never goes very far. The geese in the park near my house couldn't care less about small dogs, regardless of how loudly they bark, and will gladly hijack the entire walking path if they're in the mood. And when I spotted an injured fox limping into the park a few days ago, I knew that it was the same one that had been living in the park's forested edge because I'd seen it so often with Bowie.

Before I got a dog, I wondered how having one might change our home. Would he chew up the sofa? Would his dog beds, toys and food bowls overtake our living area? Would he disrupt my workday? None of these worries materialized in any significant way. Instead, he's simply changed who and what I see throughout my day.

A few days ago, another neighbor appeared in my backyard because her dog, Solly, has as much energy as my dog, and so the two frequently play. She asked me when I moved to the neighborhood. I've been here for 10 years. She's been here 20. But we had never met or even seen each other until she adopted Solly last summer.

"The dog becomes something people are interested in and can become a fulcrum for knowing your community in different ways," said Melissa Cooper, who for years kept a blog about the walks she took with her dog, Strider, after she moved back to Manhattan from Dallas in 2008. Strider (known as Esau in the blog) died in 2018, but Cooper still goes on the same walks, seeking out his favorite spots, like where the raccoons like to hide in Central Park. "Now I'm trained," she said.

In her blog, aptly called "Out Walking the Dog," Cooper often photographed the wildlife that she and Strider spotted, or the sunsets, or the way the ice would freeze on the rocks in Central Park. "If you're serious about looking at wildlife, walking a dog is not the way to do it," she said.

But if you want a companion to point out other creatures and heighten your senses, a dog certainly helps. "He opened up worlds for me," Cooper said. "He would see things before I would. I'd learn how to see, how to listen, how to hear."

He was also, apparently, an excellent rat hunter, with a knack for efficiently dispatching the rodents hidden beneath the trash bags on the sidewalks of her Morningside Heights neighborhood. "It's incredible," she said. "He could have cleaned up the whole neighborhood."

Tanvi Misra, a journalist who writes frequently about migration and urban policy, had lived in the Shaw neighborhood in Washington, D.C., for two years by the time she adopted Ruth, a mutt, in 2020. Ruth, a rescue, had been living on a farm in Arkansas and was terrified of the bustling, loud streets of her new neighborhood. So Misra sought out the quiet alleys behind the row houses and schools.

Through the gritty alleys, Misra came to appreciate an area that often seemed too polished to feel like home. "I grew up in a neighborhood in Delhi, India, that had a lot of nooks and crannies," she said. Discovering the alleys with Ruth "brought back a little of that."

She also started meeting neighbors and striking up conversations, something that was also out of her comfort zone. "Small talk is not easy for me," she said of a conversation style that she finds distinctly American. "But with Ruth, there was always an excuse to start talking to people."

Last summer, Misra and her boyfriend moved to New York, renting an apartment in Queens. Ruth, now thoroughly a city dog, no longer needs her quiet alleys. She loves sampling the scraps near the food trucks in the Sunnyside neighborhood. "She finds the waste on the ground, and she loves what I call street food," Misra said.

Kim Kavin, author of "Little Boy Blue: A Puppy's Rescue from Death Row and His Owner's Journey for Truth," has found that as her dogs change, so do her walks. Her younger dog, Ginger, who's 10, has hip dysplasia and arthritis, so Kavin recently asked other dog owners for tips on where she could find some flat hiking trails near her home in a rural part of Morris County, New Jersey. They led her to places she never knew existed. Now these trails that were previously invisible to her are part of her daily life.

"I would not be out here if I didn't have dogs," she said to me, talking by phone on a cold January afternoon as she trudged through 6 inches of snow in a park. "I would never walk so far. I would never explore so much. I certainly would not be trying all different kinds of parks."

And yet there she was, huffing through the snow as her dogs dragged her through it.

EX-ETIQUETTE

Be careful not to romanticize the past with your co-parent

By Jann Blackstone
Tribune News Service

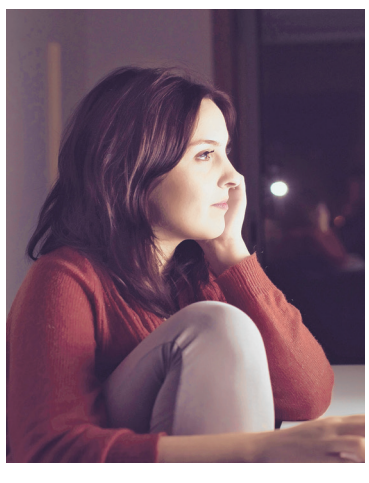
Q: I get along quite well with my ex, and Valentine's Day was our anniversary. I wanted to reach out just to reinforce the journey we went through — married, awful divorce, and now doing our best to co-parent. We rode the wave, and I'm proud of us. But he has remarried, and I think his wife is a little intimidated by how easily we interact. It's not my goal to upset their life, just acknowledge "us." But is that good ex-etiquette?

A: Although you have been through a lot — and good for you for riding the wave — be careful not to romanticize the past. In order to properly co-parent after a breakup, you must put aside the "ex" relationship and build a completely new relationship based not on your mutual love for each other, but on the mutual love you have for your child. The romance of the past may have been wonderful, but reminiscing about the good-old days won't serve you as co-parents. The "us" you speak of is "us" as mom and dad, not as former lovers.

I'm not saying to deny the journey, but respect it for what it is: the past. In the present, your child's father is married to someone else. That union deserves your respect, particularly if your child is going back and forth between homes and taking it all in. You said your goal is not to upset their life. A good test of whether that is true is to ask yourself if you would send the same card knowing his wife would read it.

Your message of acknowledgment and gratitude may be better sent on Father's Day, when recognition of dad is what the day is all about. Remember to keep the message about your role as parents. Celebrate his role as dad and his dedication to fatherhood.

Finally, you have the opportunity to create the exact relationship you want to best co-parent your child. Look for ways to reinforce THAT relationship.



Reminiscing about the good-old days won't serve you as co-parents, says Dr. Jann Blackstone.
DREAMSTIME

CELEBRITIES

Spears signs $15 million book deal

From news services



Britney Spears has signed a $15 million book deal, according to a Page Six report. VALERIE MACON/GETTY-AFP 2019

After dueling over her sister's tell-all book, now Britney Spears is about to get her own take in print.

The pop icon has signed a $15 million book deal with publisher Simon & Schuster, according to a Page Six report. The deal comes just months after the singer ended her 13-year conservatorship. Representatives for Spears and Simon & Schuster did not respond to interview requests from the Los Angeles Times.

Spears' intra-family disputes have played out in public as the singer regained control of her ability to speak out — often using her Instagram account.

Last month, the singer called out younger sister Jamie Lynn for talking up Spears family drama while promoting her new memoir, "Things I Should Have Said." During the conservatorship, Jamie Lynn had been selected as a trustee of the pop superstar's estate.

Jamie Lynn said she tried to help Britney have her voice be heard, adding she was her sister's "biggest supporter."

But Britney didn't agree, saying her sister's book was taking advantage of the singer's troubles.

"She was never around me much 15 years ago at that time ... so why are they even talking about that unless she wants to sell a book at my expense ??? REALLY ???" Britney said via social media, adding she was sick with a fever of 104 degrees while the latest events transpired.

'The Wendy Williams Show' canceled, replaced: "The Wendy Williams Show" will end because of Williams' prolonged health-related absence and be replaced this fall with a show hosted by Sherri Shepherd, the producer of both TV programs said Tuesday.

The new daytime show, titled "Sherri," will "inherit" the time slots on Fox owned-and-operated stations that have been the backbone of Williams' nationally syndicated talk show since 2008, producer and distributor Debmar-Mercury said.

"Since Wendy is still not available to host the show as she continues on her road to recovery, we believe it is best for our fans, stations and advertising partners to start making this transition now," company co-presidents Mort Marcus and Ira Bernstein said in a statement.

"We hope to be able to work with Wendy again in the future, and continue to wish her a speedy and full recovery," the executives said.

Critics Choice Super Awards nominees announced: The Critics Choice Association announced the nominations for the second annual Critics Choice Super Awards, honoring the most popular, fan-obsessed genres across film and television.

Destin Daniel Cretton's "Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" and Jon Watts' "Spider-Man: No Way Home" led the film nominations with five noms each.

On the television side, Paramount Plus' "Evil" and Netflix's "Midnight Mass" led with six apiece. Disney Plus dominated the superhero categories with multiple nominations for "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier," "Hawkeye," "Loki" and "WandaVision."

The winners will be announced March 17.

Feb. 23 birthdays: Actor Patricia Richardson is 71. Guitarist Brad Whitford is 70. Singer Howard Jones is 67. Actor Kristin Davis is 57. Actor Niecy Nash is 52. Actor Kelly Macdonald is 46. Actor Josh Gad is 41. Actor Aziz Ansari is 39. Actor Emily Blunt is 39. Actor Tye White is 36. Actor Dakota Fanning is 28.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Daughter has bad judgment, no apologies

Dear Amy: I have a 20-year-old daughter. I adore her. We have a great relationship.

She lives with her boyfriend and his family.

When COVID-19 hit, I was very cautious, as I have conditions that make me high risk for serious infection.

As the vaccines became available, I was so relieved, and we all got vaccinated.

A couple of days before Christmas, my daughter became quite ill and called my wife to take her to the ER. She tested positive for COVID-19.

The next day she sent a text to my wife: "By the way, I am not vaccinated and never will be."

Months previously, she had said she was vaccinated. She continued to visit us and even her grandfather, who was in a nursing home.

I emailed her, telling her how disappointed I was with her, how her actions endangered me and her grandfather, and how upset I was with her deceit. She has not apologized, nor has she taken any responsibility for her behavior.

I have reached out, but no such discussion has happened. If she decides not to be vaxxed, it's her decision, but how could she not own it and take precautions around people she cares about?

Any suggestions on going forward?

— *Distressed Dad*

Dear Distressed: I do not want to excuse your daughter's dangerous behavior or her choice to lie about it.

However, I will only point out the obvious: She is 20. Twenty-year-olds are notorious for having terrible judgment and then lying about their actions after-the-fact. Proof of how immature she is was when she came down with COVID-19 and then called upon her mom (instead of anyone in her current household) to take her to the ER.

You don't state why your daughter is living with her boyfriend and his family, instead of living on her own or with you, but this may actually be her unhealthiest choice.

Yes, of course you will continue to love her, and yes — you should continue to communicate with her.

Do not wait for an apology for her actions. This apology may be sitting heavily on her heart, but you might not hear the words until she is 30.

But you also know something important about her, now. She is defying your family norm, and she wants you to know.

Take commonsense precautions regarding spending time with her.

Dear Amy: I am a 67-year-old widowed father and grandfather who has been blessed with four children and 12 grandchildren of various ages from 4 to 26.

I also have a 90-year-old mother I take care of.

We are fortunate to all live within 12 miles of each other in the same city.

I retired early at 62 to spend time with family, helping with grandchildren, going to their events, etc.

There is one son and daughter-in-law who have issues. They say the time I spend with each grandchild is not equal.

I have never questioned the way they parent their children, unless they asked. I really don't know how to react to their complaints.

My response to them is: "I don't tell you how to parent, so don't tell me how to grandparent!"

What do you think?

— *Grandpa*

Dear Grandpa: I think that was a pretty rude response to an annoying (and rude) complaint.

You are doing your best, but you have a lot on your plate. When you've cooled down, you should remind these parents that you love all your grandchildren equally, but that you aren't willing or able to parcel out your time exactly evenly.

Try to get to the bottom of what they are responding to and ask if they have specific hurts they'd like to address.

Dear Amy: Your response to "Worried" suggested that her husband, who had "little blue pills in his work bag" but wasn't having sex with his wife, must be having sex with someone else.

You failed to recognize the possibility that he was having sex with himself ... a common practice of husbands who for whatever reason can't get together with their wives.

— *In the Know*

Dear In the Know: The hitch (for me) was that he said he was taking them at work.

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Bathe stepping into spotlight with thriller series 'Endgame'

By Alicia Rancilio
Associated Press



Ryan Michelle Bathe, seen Feb. 14 in Los Angeles, co-stars in the NBC series "The Endgame." CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

We've seen her on the legal drama "All Rise," originally on CBS, and "First Wives Club" for BET+, but Ryan Michelle Bathe has jumped to the top of the marquee as a star of "The Endgame" on NBC, which recently debuted and airs Mondays.

The series co-stars Morena Baccarin ("Homeland," "Deadpool," "Gotham") as Elena Federova, an international arms dealer who in the pilot has just been captured. Federova is always at least one step ahead of everyone else, so even in custody she's got the upper hand. The only person who comes close to figuring her out is Bathe's Val Turner of the FBI, a buttoned-up, by-the-book agent. Val's hit a rough patch because her estranged husband, a former federal agent, was caught taking drug money — and she turned him in.

Viewers will soon notice these two characters seem to have way more going on than meets the eye, which will play out over the course of the season.

That two women are the stars of this thriller series for network television is "a huge step," acknowledges Bathe.

"It's not about, 'Oh, who could she seduce next?' No one's getting seduced in our show."

Playing this character, says Bathe, "is very bleak in many ways because she is so isolated and so lonely, and you have to feel that. From 'action' to 'cut' it's high tension, and there's nothing to break it. We don't get a chance to breathe on this show, and that's what makes it good."

Bathe is the opposite of Val: She's upbeat, animated and very relatable. She jokes that getting exercise is largely off the table lately because she would have to wake up too early.

"Sometimes my pick-up time is 4:15 a.m. I'm not waking up at 2:30 to go work out. That just seems counterproductive."

Production on "The Endgame" is also in New York, keeping her from her family in Los Angeles. Bathe is married to "This is Us" star Sterling K. Brown, and they have two sons, Andrew and Amare.

"I miss those kiddos of mine so much, and I miss my husband, I miss my house, I miss my pillows," said Bathe.

She says it took her years to like Los Angeles, and she always longed to be in New York, where she attended grad school at NYU. By returning to New York, Bathe has "the thing that I said I always wanted."

As her career ramps up with "The Endgame," Brown is winding down "This is Us," now airing its sixth and final season, also on NBC. She says their schedules can be tricky because their children are no longer transportable babies who can live nomadic lives with their working mom and dad.

"It's all of a sudden soccer, and a fully fleshed-out human with its own friends and its own things. And there's two of them. And so now it's learning to roll with those punches and sort of figure out what's best for the family."

Performing, she says, was something she knew "was an option from a very early age."

Bathe's mother is actor and singer Clare Bathe — who recorded the hit song "There But for the Grace of God Go I" in 1979 with her group Machine.

"I grew up on stages," said Bathe. "I grew up backstage. Theater was something that I grew up with."

With both parents in showbiz, Bathe says her sons are showing signs that entertainment is in their blood.

"I have two incredibly dramatic children in very different ways. One is like the kid in the independent film that gets like an Oscar nomination because they're so precocious but sad and emo. That's the oldest. And then the youngest is like the Disney star, Zac Efron, in the making."

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): People could be underestimating you, which might work in your favor. People won't notice what you're achieving, but you can lay a strong foundation for the future. It would be worth keeping your eyes open, as you may have the opportunity to slip into a new role.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Today is great for taking one step toward achieving your goals. Letting your imagination loose can help you come up with creative ideas you can act on. However, you don't need to act on all of them immediately. At least a few of your bright ideas will probably need a little time to ripen.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Blurred boundaries could be an issue. It might be obvious to you that what's yours is yours, but you might not have communicated this as clearly as you thought. Perhaps you're taking advantage of someone. You may have to apologize gracefully and plan to avoid it in the future.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): There's no need to avoid saying what you think today. You may have been worrying unnecessarily, and it could end up being good to get something out into the open. That doesn't mean everyone will agree with you. They won't think that it's much of a big deal when they disagree.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Your plans to stay busy could be thwarted by others now. Sticking to a schedule and following a routine can be complicated. The whole situation will be worse if you don't make it clear there's a schedule to stick to in the first place. Making sure everyone is on the same page could save you a lot of grief.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Music and art can feed your soul. It's easy to think such things are less important than work, but making space to enjoy some tunes or watch a movie could make it easier to get on with more humdrum tasks. Whatever your passion is, this is a good day to indulge it.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Being non-committal can frustrate those close to you today. You might be worried that if you agree to what they're asking, you'll end up taking on a lot more than you can handle, but refusing to be clear about it won't help anyone. If you feel overloaded, let anyone involved know right away.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Going with the flow could help you get more done. When you're out, you may have a chance to do a task that you'd planned to leave until later. If some way of killing more birds with one stone occurs to you, it's worth acting on. There's more than one way of being efficient.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You might be a little gullible today. If you have any reservations, it's best to politely decline. When things look too good to be true or if you don't understand the terms of the deal, it would be wise to walk away. There's a chance you'll miss out, but it's likely that you've saved yourself from disaster.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Knowing the why as well as the what can be your special power. You need to gather some extra information or simply look closely at how people react. Making decisions should come easily when you develop a good sense of the logic behind what those around you want.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is an ideal time for working behind the scenes. If you don't want people to know what you're up to, it shouldn't take much effort to keep it secret. People are so caught up in what they're doing that they won't pay a lot of attention to you. You can get a lot done without a fuss.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Take another step toward creating a better world today. It might only be small, but it could make all the difference. You're likely to get good results by teaming up with like-minded people. There are people who think the same way as you, and it's worth making the effort to find them.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 23, 1685, composer George Frideric Handel was born in present-day Germany.

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph).

In 1954, the first mass inoculation of schoolchildren against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh.

In 1998, 42 people were killed, some 2,600 homes and businesses damaged or destroyed, by tornadoes in central Florida.

In 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was fatally shot on a residential Georgia street; a white father and son had armed themselves and pursued him after seeing him running through their neighborhood.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

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Level: 1 2 **3** 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

3	7	6	5	8	1	2	4	9
1	9	2	3	6	4	5	8	7
5	4	8	7	2	9	3	6	1
2	3	6	9	4	7	8	1	5
8	5	4	2	1	3	7	9	6
9	1	7	6	5	8	4	2	3
9	6	5	4	7	2	1	3	8
4	8	3	1	9	5	6	7	2
7	2	1	8	3	6	9	5	4

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: bug life

300

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

N M M U O J Y J D T K N W D A I N K
R S I Q D G T R B O R E R E I V C Z
R T D L O R I B E E T L E D K I W B
A Y G N L B A O P A S G Z I T U Q A
T Z E M Y I S U S J R M S H W A L P
S F A D J X P S L U G W V P D O S F
U I A E Q A I E L G R X I A I A R S
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C B T E R M I T E O O J O O H I F L
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N A L I E G N I W E C A L A R V A T
I O M O S Q U I T O T B G N A T F H

APHID, BEES, BEETLE, BORER, CADDIS, CENTIPEDE, CICADA, COCOON, CULEX, EARWIG, FLEA, FLUKE, GNAT, GRUB, HORNET, INSECT, LACEWING, LADYBIRD, LARVA, LEECH, LICE, LOCUST, MAGGOT, MANTIS, MAYFLY, MEALYBUG, MIDGE, MILLIPEDE, MOSQUITO, MOTH, NYMPH, PUPA, SCARAB, SCORPION, SLUG, SNAIL, SPIDER, TERMITE, THRIPS, TICK, WASP, WEEVIL, WORM

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BOGGLE

Boggle® BrainBusters!™ BUPH WOLS GOKE AGLM

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

G	I	L	F
E	A	B	O
C	N	R	O
H	K	U	T

12-2-19

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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE
- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31-60 = Gamer
- 21-30 = Rookie
- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE WORDS RELATED TO TREES in the grid of letters.

_____

_____

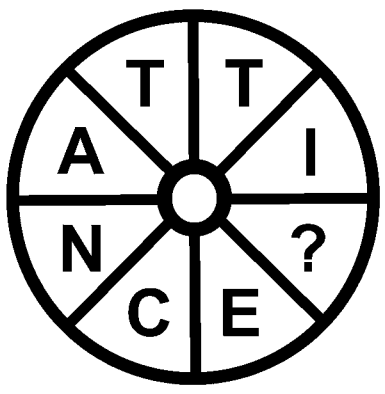
_____

_____

_____

BARK ROOT TRUNK BRANCH FOLIAGE

WordWheel



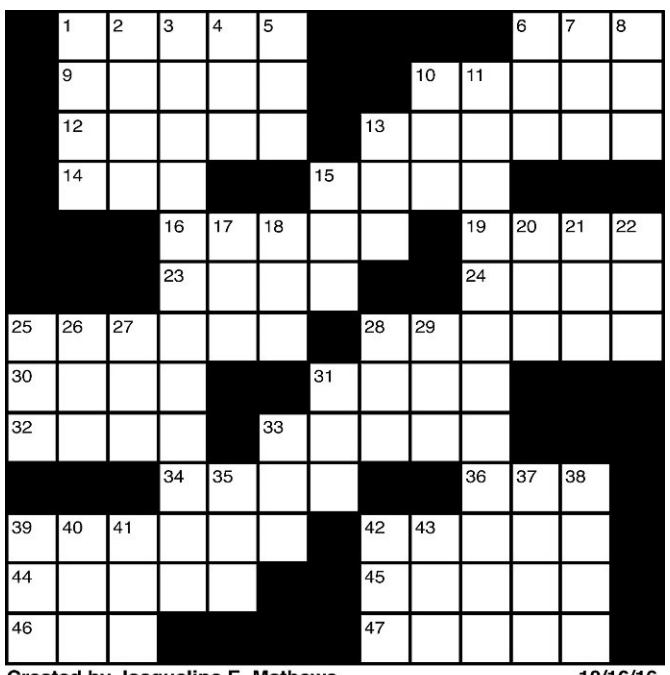
Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

PITTANCE

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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 10/16/16

ACROSS
1 Telly Savalas series
6 Conway or Daly
9 Furious
10 Small blackboard
12 __ a garment; use a store's dressing room
13 "__ & Stimpy Show"
14 Uncanny sense, for short
15 Actor John __
16 Role on "I Love Lucy"
19 Robert De __
23 "Now __ me down to sleep..."
24 "__ Bridges"; Don Johnson series
25 Colonel __; Harry Morgan's role on "M*A*S*H"
28 "__ of S.H.I.E.L.D."
30 Powder, for short
31 Fashion designer Christian __
32 Part of the foot
33 One of the Marx brothers
34 "__ Stevens"; former Shia LaBeouf Disney Channel series
36 "The __ Skelton Hour"
39 Charlie Sheen's dad
42 "The Hitchhiker's __ to the Galaxy"; Martin Freeman movie
44 Give a speech
45 Actor __ Davis
46 "How I __ Your Mother"
47 Shade of yellow

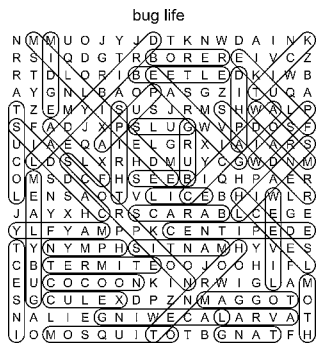
DOWN
1 Windy day toy
2 Hockey's Bobby and his family
3 Role on "Modern Family"
4 __ Z; Ben Feldman series
5 Actor Berry
6 Street paver's substance
7 Ending for favor or social
8 "__ Behaving Badly"
10 "Murder, __ Wrote"
11 Role on "Code Black"
13 "Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be __ name..."
15 "Vanilla __"; movie for Tom Cruise
17 Ending for percent or project
18 "__ 54, Where Are You?"
20 Actor Somerhalder
21 OPQ followers
22 Actress Sandra and her parents
25 "Harper Valley __"
26 Boatman's need
27 "Sister Wives" network
28 "Up in the __"; George Clooney movie
29 Reagan's party, for short
31 Actor Aykroyd
33 Chicken's mother
35 Compete
37 Adams or Falco
38 "The __ Hunter"; movie for Robert De Niro
39 Series for Allison Janney
40 "Who Do You Think You __?"
41 Long-tailed rodent
42 Wet sticky stuff
43 Pacific Coast univ.

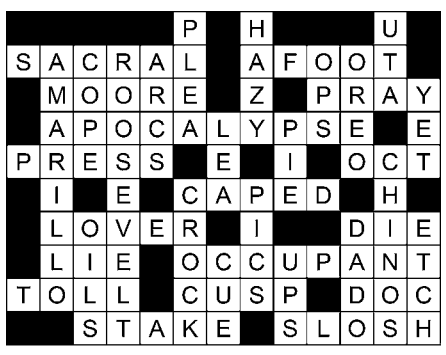


10/23/16

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bug life





P R O M O T I O N

JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TWIYT

AANER

DAYSIM

SOFUNI

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

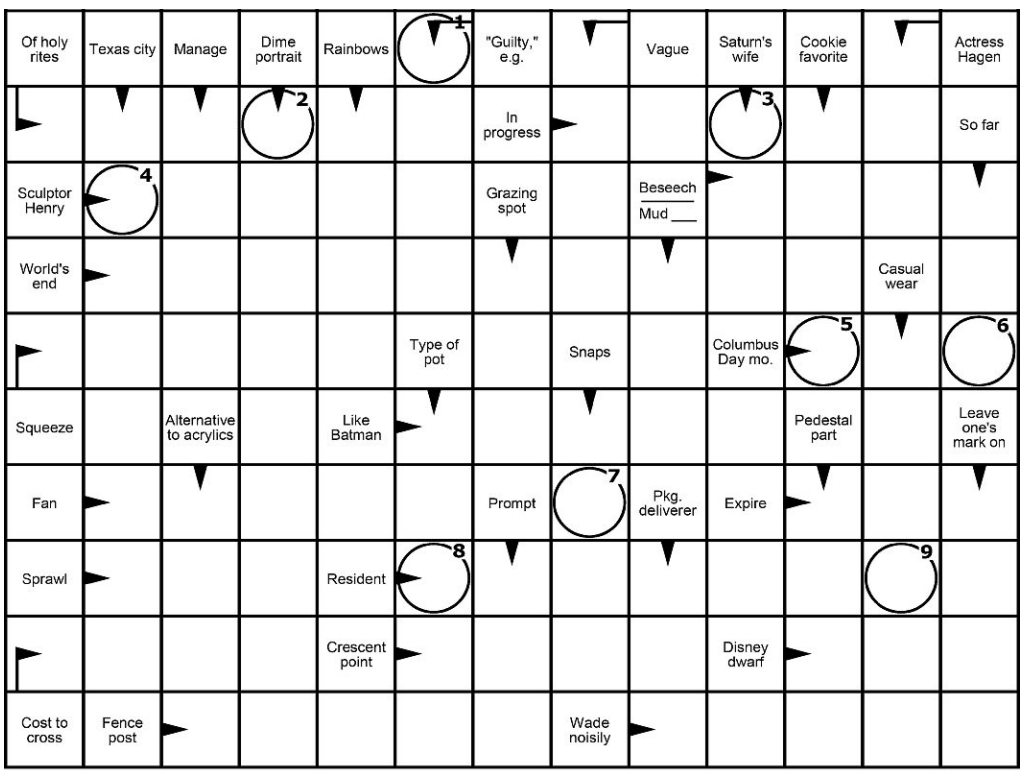


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: WITTY ARENA DISMAY FUSION
Answer: When they heated slices of bread on the campfire, they were — WARM AND TOASTY

ARROW WORDS

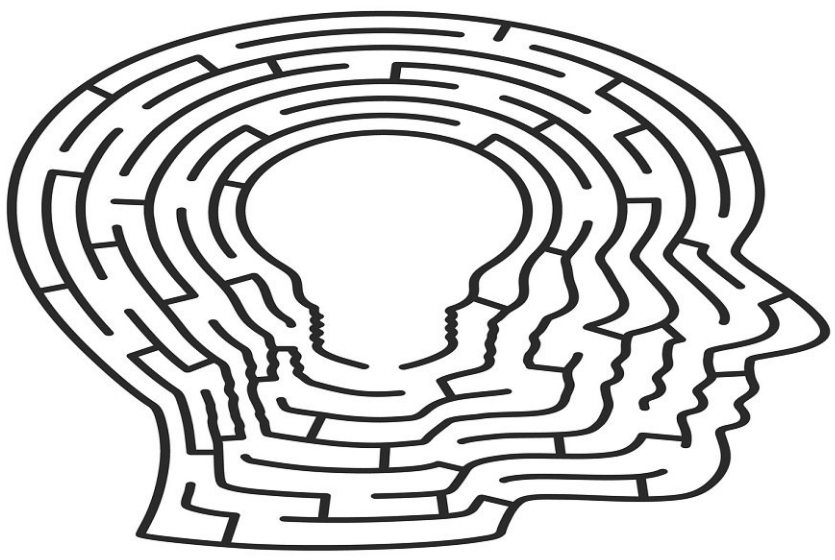
Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

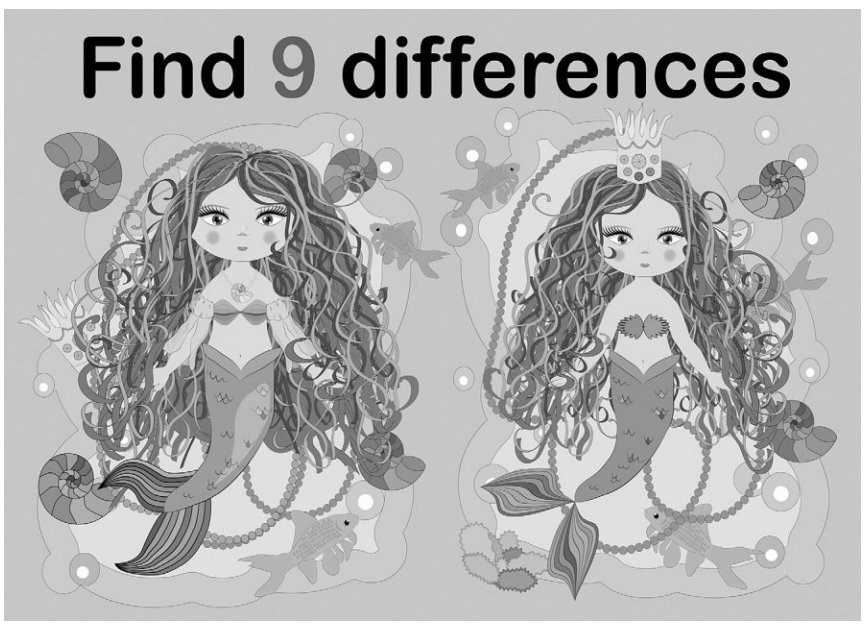


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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES





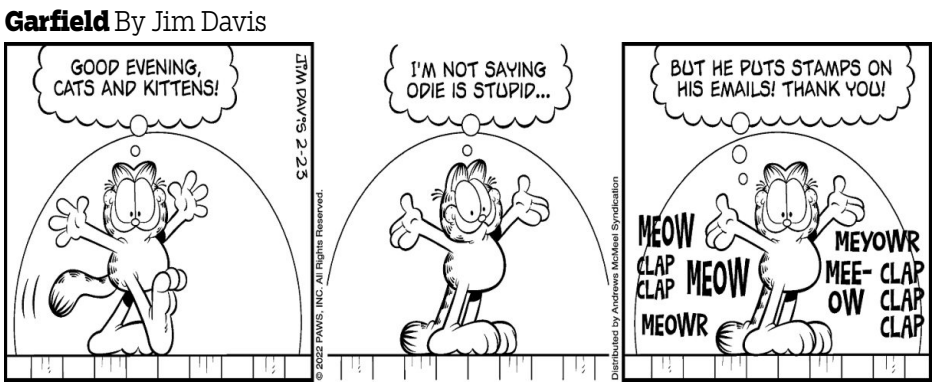
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



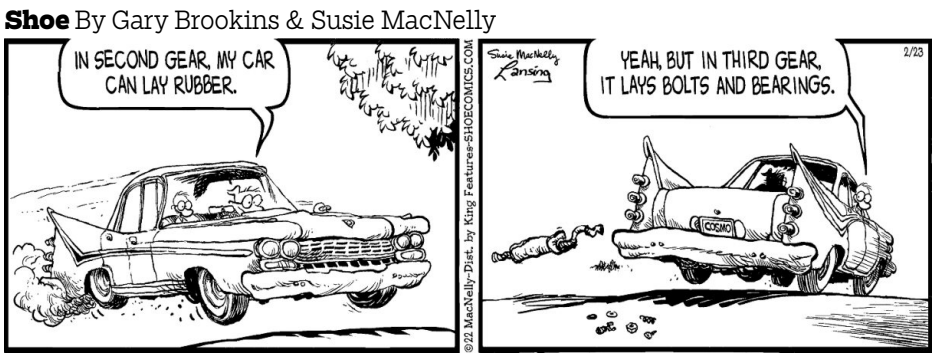
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



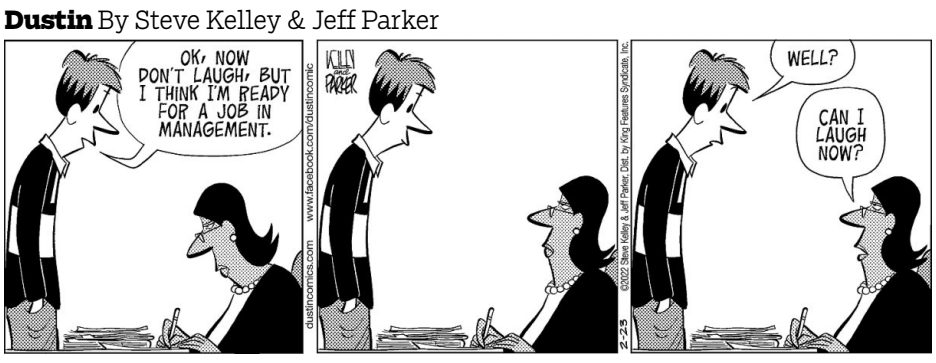
Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



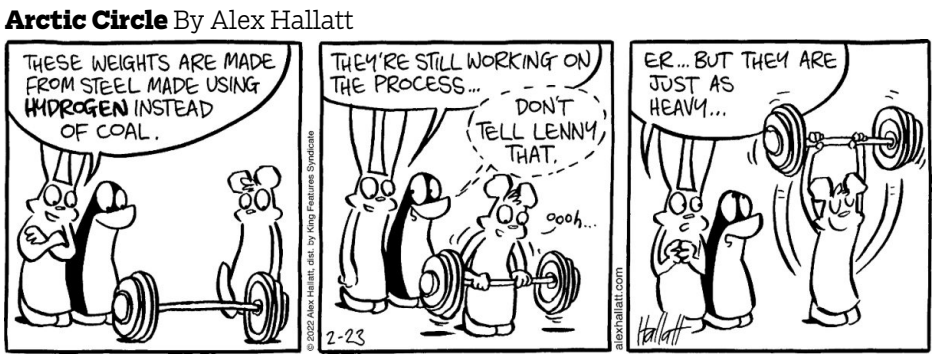
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



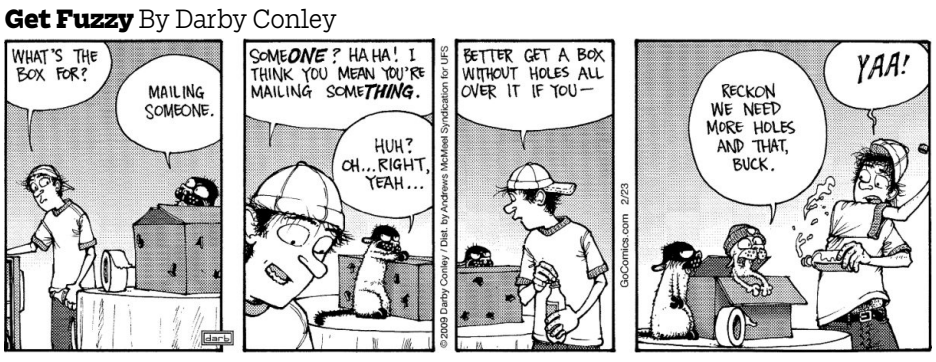
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



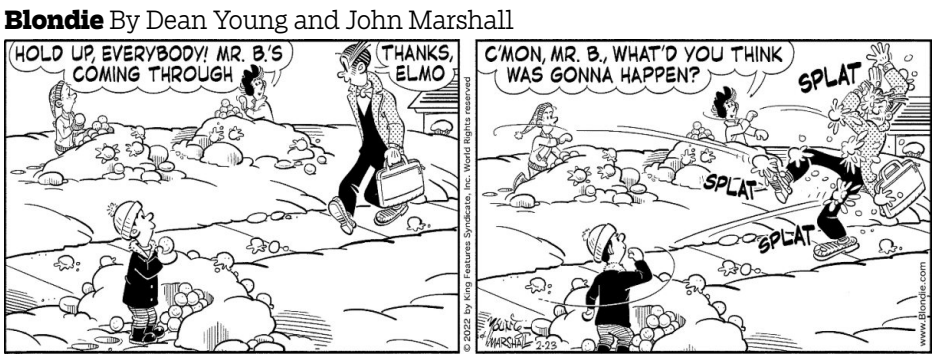
Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



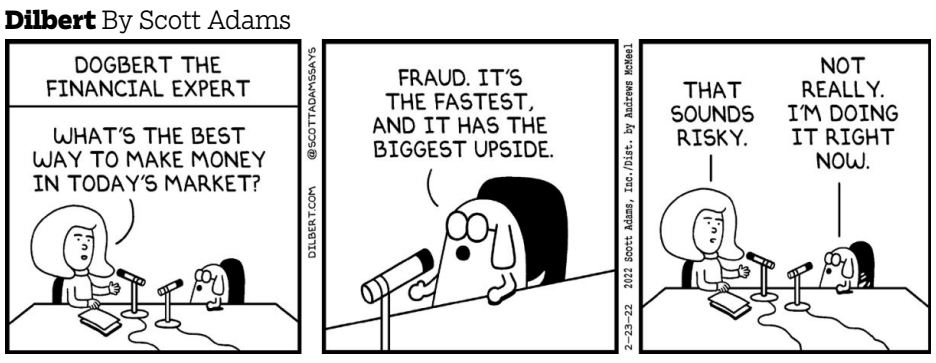
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



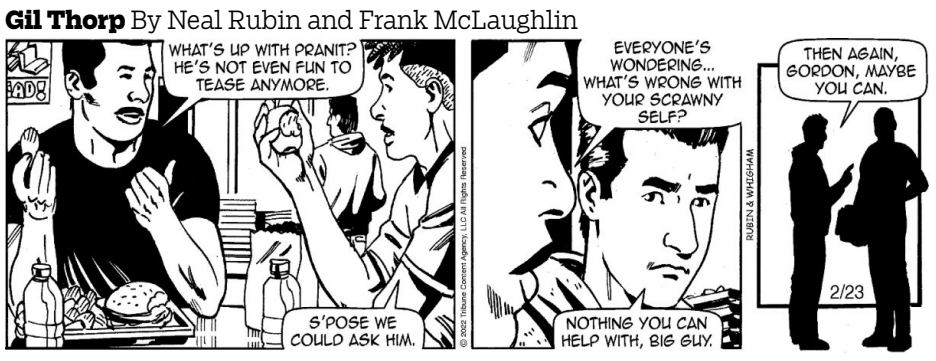
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



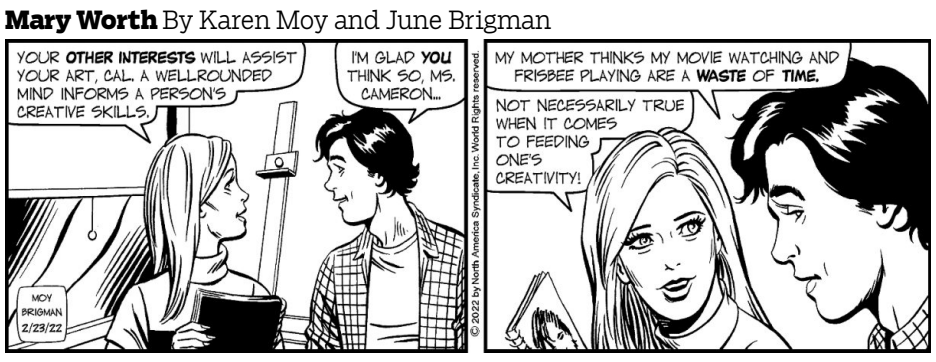
Dilbert By Scott Adams



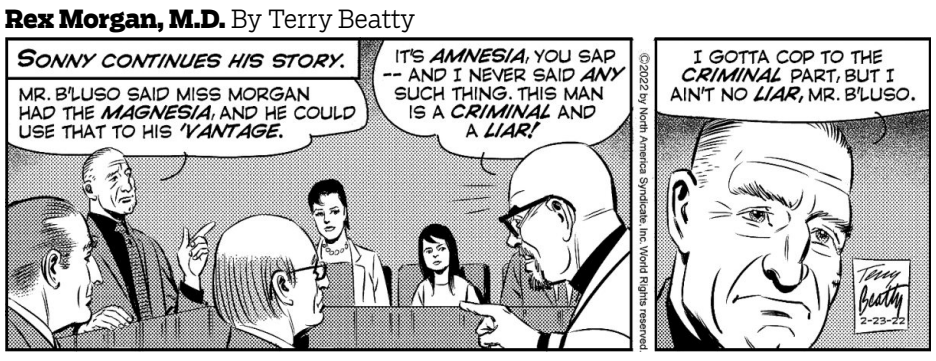
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



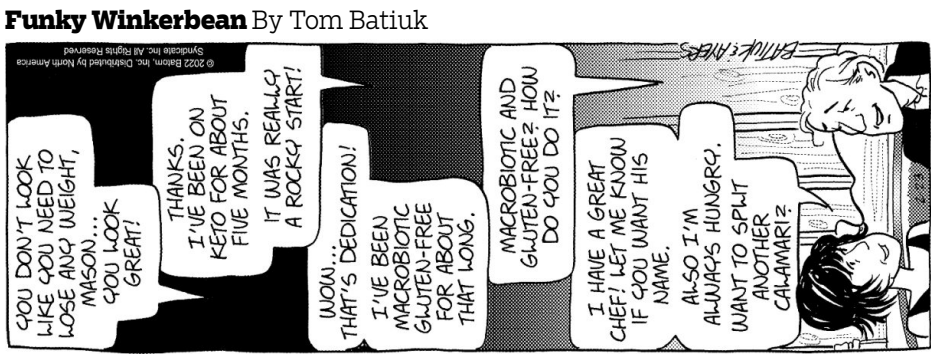
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



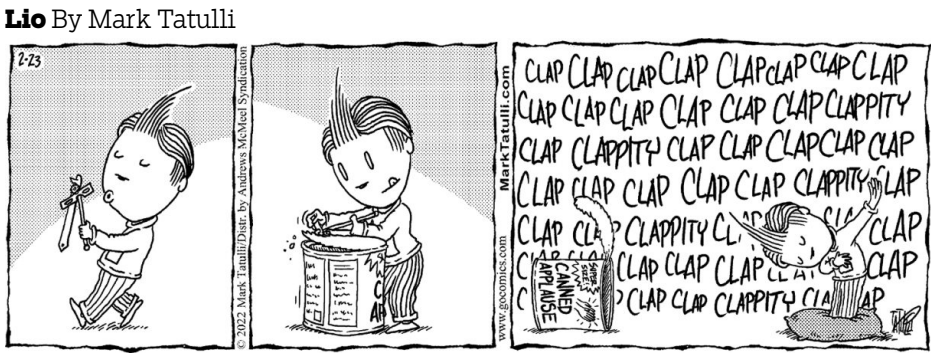
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



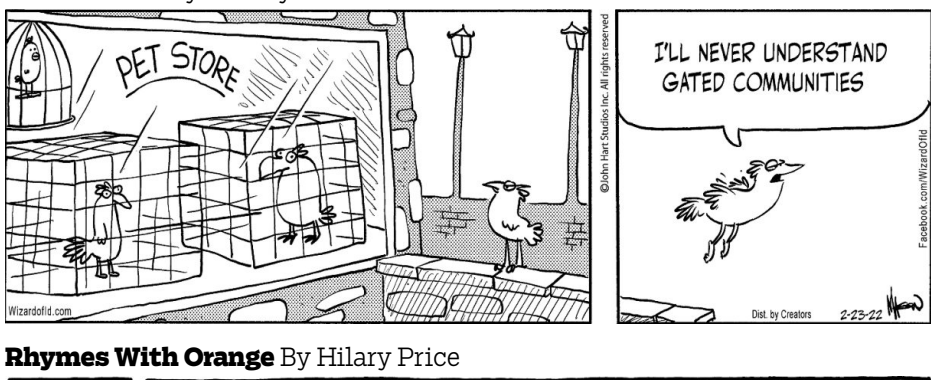
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall

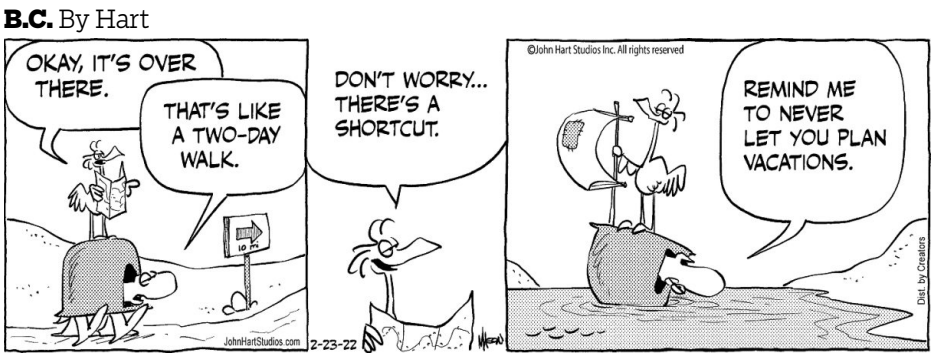
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



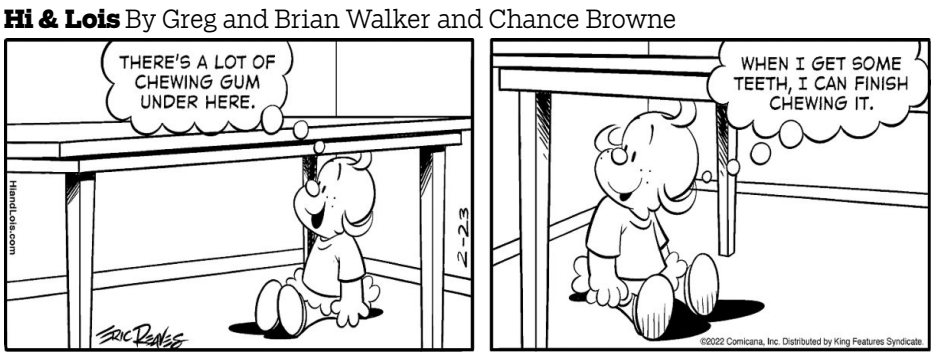
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



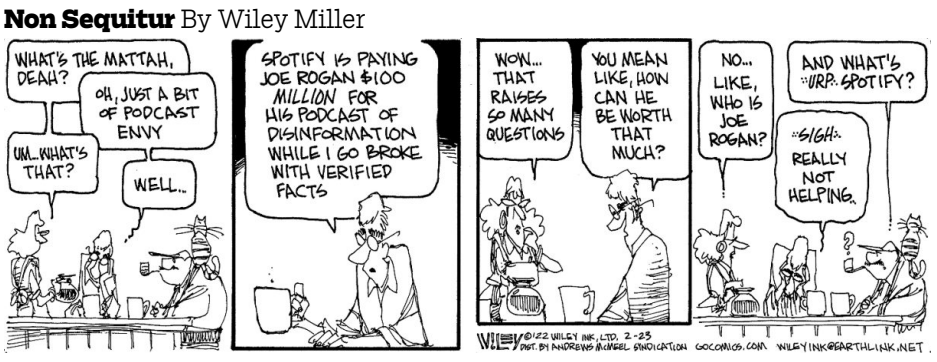
Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



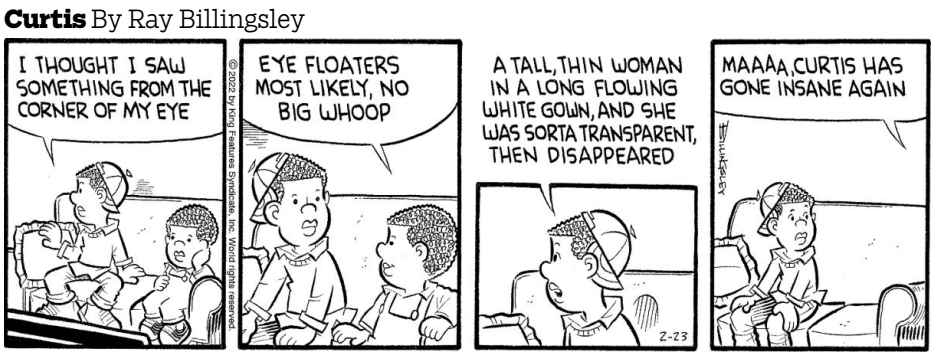
Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



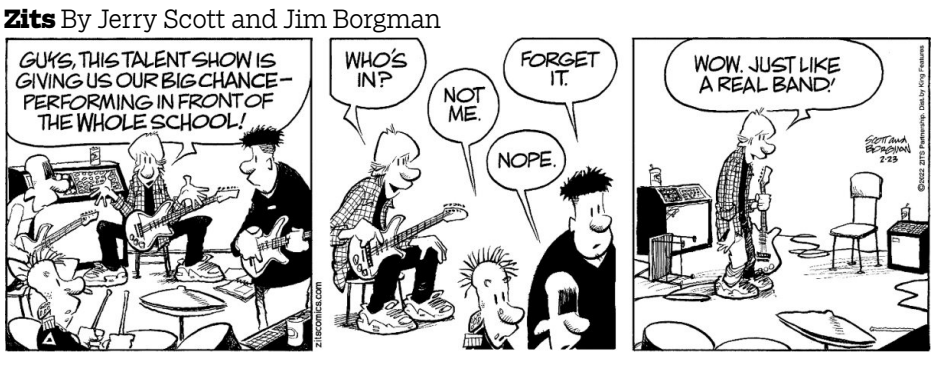
Curtis By Ray Billingsley



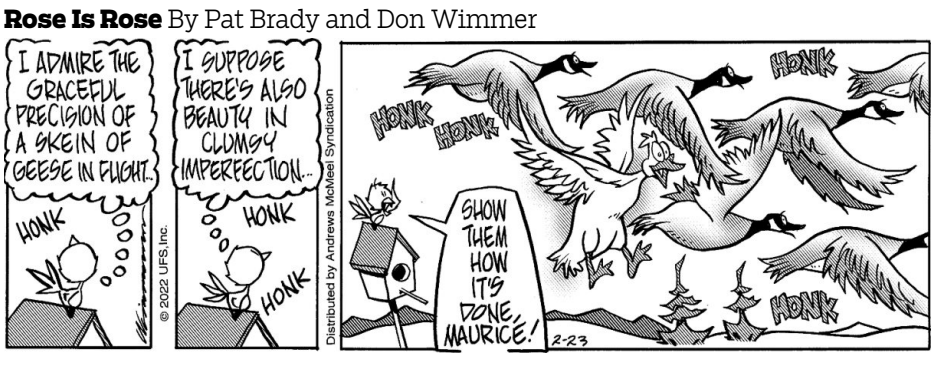
Pickles By Brian Crane



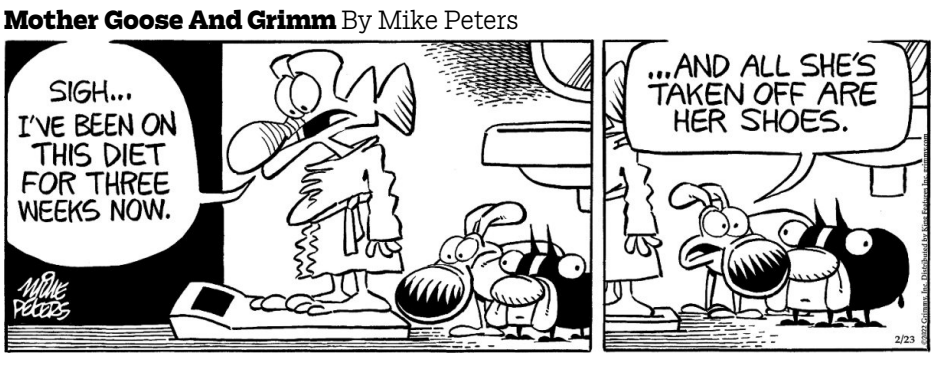
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

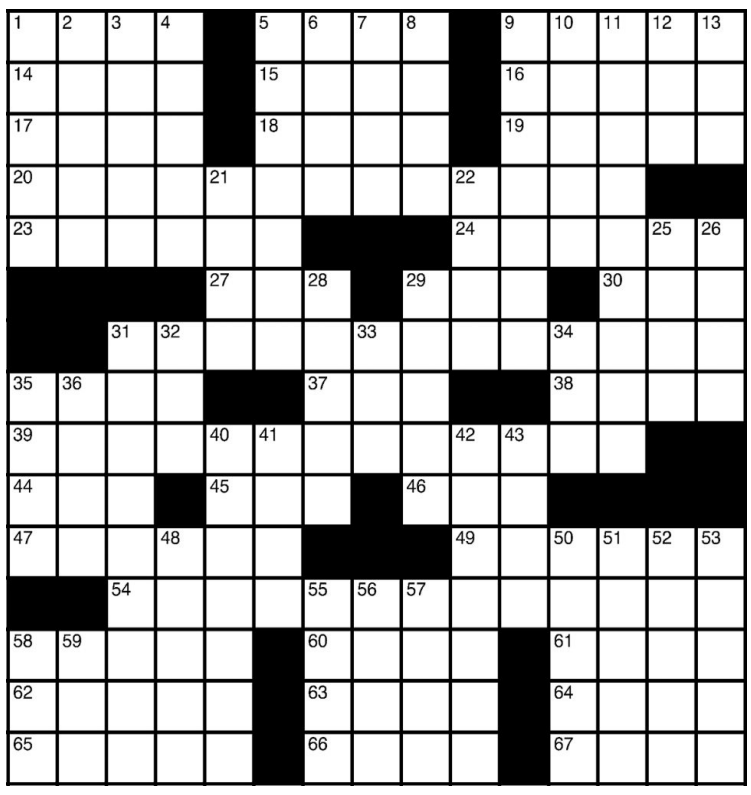
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Pierre's st.
5 Retro ski area sight
9 Sounding amazed
14 Dance at Jewish weddings
15 Slippery
16 Not exactly a company person
17 Like a GI doing dishes
18 It starts the pot
19 Former Portuguese territory in China
20 Train vigorously
23 Obscure
24 Worldwide cultural org.
27 Part of a play
29 Like wee bairns
30 Street-paving goop
31 Show eager anticipation
35 Citrus drinks
37 Brazil __
38 Cookies-and-cream ingredient
39 Search everywhere
44 Timeworn
45 Paddle relative
46 Honor society starter
47 Subject of the Book of Proverbs
49 Neither early nor late
54 Work really hard for victory ... and a hint to the start of 20-, 31- and 39-Across
58 Classic mother-and-son statue
60 Pub projectile
61 Yellowish green
62 Primp
63 Geometry product
64 Techie, say
65 Cline of country
66 Sail support
67 "Get lost!"

Down

1 Exhibited, as a home for sale
2 Hawaiian singing legend
3 Alan of "Argo"
4 Honor society ender
5 Town where the New Jersey (now Brooklyn) Nets played home games for their first year
6 Twisted
7 The "A" in SATB
8 Bar shelf lineup
9 Annual fact book
10 Act bonkers
11 Family tree members
12 North __
13 Play-for-pay
21 Apple desktop
22 Sings without lyrics
25 Common superhero garb
26 Estimate qualifier
28 Printer supply
29 Prep
31 Bare bones musical notation
32 Loyal end?
33 Heart
34 Garden tool
35 Take __: acknowledge applause
36 Business with a slicer
40 More than needed
41 Soccer great Mia
42 Call to from a distance
43 Clue
48 Sources of high school jitters
50 Anklebone
51 "If only"
52 Old copy machine
53 Four before mayo
55 Dutch cheese
56 __ avis
57 Mining targets
58 Very softly, in music
59 Sr.'s nest egg



By Judy Hughes — Tribune Content Agency 2/23/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 4 3 2
♥ 10 5
♦ Q 8 4
♣ Q 8 6 5

WEST
♠ K 6 5
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ 6 2
♣ A K 9 3

EAST
♠ A J 10 9 7
♥ Q 8 6 4 3
♦ —
♣ 10 7 2

SOUTH
♠ 8
♥ A K
♦ A K J 10 9 7 5 3
♣ J 4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	5 ♦	

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Pointing the way

Suit-preference signals are both the most abused and the most underused plays in bridge. This might sound contradictory, but it is nonetheless true. The dichotomy exists because many players try to give suit-preference signals in situations where they do not apply yet miss other opportunities where such signals can be used.

A good rule of thumb is the following: The play of an unnecessarily high or low card when other alternatives are known to exist is a suit-preference signal, provided all other types of signals (i.e., attitude and count) have been ruled out. In other words, count and attitude signals take precedence over suit-preference signals. But if a player gives a signal that cannot be either count or attitude, then it is, in all likelihood, suit-preference.

A fine example is provided by this deal from a sectional tournament. South opened with five diamonds in third seat, ending the auction.

West led the king of clubs, East playing the deuce and South the four. As East could not have a doubleton (he would have begun a high-low on the king), West switched to a low heart at trick two, declarer taking East's queen with the ace. South then made the excellent return of the club jack, delaying the drawing of trump in order not to give the opponents an opportunity to signal one another.

It can be seen that if West takes the club and returns another heart, hoping his partner has the king, South will make the contract.

After winning the heart return, South can draw trump ending in dummy and discard his losing spade on the club queen. West's play after taking the club ace would therefore appear to be a guess.

But East came to the rescue by playing the ten of clubs on the second club lead. Since West knew that East still had the missing seven of clubs, West concluded that his partner was directing him to return a spade rather than a heart. So West duly returned a spade, and the contract went down one.

Tomorrow: A very costly decision.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HGUSR

LDEEU

KAWNEE

LEKYLI



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHEAT KNIFE LAWYER UNJUST
Answer: His compliments of the sugar cookies she'd made included — SWEET TALK

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TODAY'S SUDOKU

	7		6				4	8
		5			4		1	
		4		3				
		2		4		6	9	
			9		5			
	9	6		1		8		
				7		9		
	3		5			4		
6	1				9		8	

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

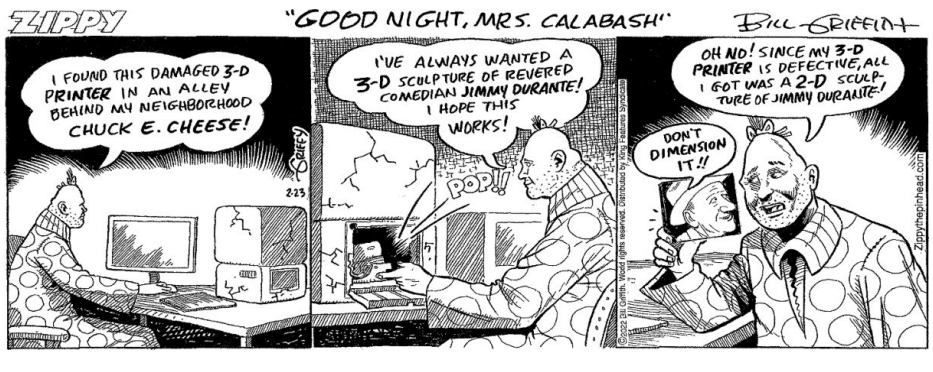
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

8	7	5	4	3	1	9	2	6
6	1	9	8	2	5	4	7	3
3	2	4	7	6	9	5	1	8
2	9	8	1	7	3	6	4	5
5	4	3	6	8	2	1	9	7
7	6	1	9	5	4	8	3	2
1	5	7	3	4	8	2	6	9
9	3	2	5	1	6	7	8	4
4	8	6	2	9	7	3	5	1

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

O	P	R	A	H	■	V	E	G	A	N	■	S	O	B
A	D	A	G	E	■	E	L	A	T	E	■	T	H	E
F	A	S	H	I	O	N	S	H	O	W	■	A	N	A
■	■	■	A	G	R	E	E	■	■	E	F	R	O	N
U	S	A	■	H	E	E	■	■	C	R	A	B	■	■
N	A	P	■	H	O	R	S	E	R	A	C	I	N	G
I	T	P	R	O	S	■	I	V	Y	■	I	L	E	R
T	O	R	O	■	■	L	E	E	■	■	A	L	S	O
E	R	O	S	■	J	I	G	■	S	P	L	I	T	S
S	I	X	T	H	A	V	E	N	U	E	■	N	E	S
■	■	I	R	O	N	■	■	O	D	E	■	G	R	E
H	E	M	A	N	■	■	C	L	A	R	K	■	■	■
E	V	A	■	C	O	M	M	O	N	S	E	N	S	E
L	E	T	■	H	E	A	D	S	■	A	N	G	E	L
D	R	E	■	O	D	O	R	S	■	T	T	O	P	S

Zippy "GOOD NIGHT, MRS. CALABASH" Bill Griffith



Grands Stepping Up provides helping hand

Nonprofit supports grandparents raising grandkids

By Rita Giordano
The Philadelphia Inquirer


Amie Cannon is a youth coordinator and in charge of pantry food safety. **ALEJANDRO A. ALVAREZ/THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER**

PHILADELPHIA — On a cold January night two years ago, Regina Cappelli, a single grandmother raising two young grandsons, got the call from her local county child welfare agency.

Another grandchild — an infant — had just been removed from Cappelli's daughter, also the mother of the other boys. Come get the baby, or he would go into foster care, she was told.

Overwhelmed and unprepared, Cappelli called Karen Barnes, another single grandmother raising a grandchild.

"I was devastated and I was in tears," the Delaware County woman recalled. "When you get these kids, you get the clothes on their back and that's it. I said, 'I don't know what I'm going to do.'"

Her friend wasn't just sympathetic. She was outraged.

"Karen said, 'That's it! Something's got to be done!'"

That night, Barnes got on social media. The next day, when she showed up at Cappelli's home, the grandmother couldn't believe her eyes.

"She filled up my living room!" said Cappelli, now raising her three grandsons. "Four contractor bags full of clothes, diapers out the wazoo, formula, a Pack 'n Play, a stroller, blankets galore, wipes. I couldn't imagine something like that from just overnight."

Barnes was also amazed by the robust response her posts received. She took it to heart.

"I said to myself, 'I have a gift and I am definitely being called,'" Barnes said. "'I can do this.'"

And thus, Grands Stepping Up (GSU) was born. A nonprofit organization, GSU provides support to grandparents raising their grandchildren and kinship guardians raising their family members.

"Everything I do and try to empower others to do comes from saying yes," said Barnes, 58.

For this former volunteer program coordinator who had to stop working due to a chronic gastrointestinal condition, saying yes meant taking emergency custody and eventually adopting her granddaughter, Ellianna, now 9. It came to mean seeing other guardians who needed help, just like she often had, and deciding to do something about it.

Grands Stepping Up has come a long way since it started in 2020.

The program runs Denis' Pantry, a place where any member of the Delaware County community and grandparents from anywhere can come for food, clothing, and baby goods. GSU estimates the pantry served about 500 families last year. It is located in the basement of Llanerch Hills Chapel in Havertown, Pennsylvania, and named after Barnes' brother, who died of COVID-19.

But Grands Stepping Up has expanded in other ways, too.

The group has partnered with other organizations like the Main Line Art Center and the Kiwanis of the Main Line to provide free art programs for the grandkids. GSU has also helped provide holiday meals for hundreds of grandfamilies.

GSU now has a legal clinic with local family lawyers offering their services on a sliding scale. There are three licensed therapists volunteering their services for trauma-focused counseling for the children and their guardians. The group also has been able to provide some financial assistance.

Often, GSU will put out a special request on its Facebook page and get it granted, like the funds raised to pay for a tombstone. Their appeals are seldom ignored, Barnes said.

"I can tell you we always have our donors who come through for us," she said. "A lot of people have been touched by so much stuff in their lives, they want to come forward to help."

A lot of the grandparents raising grandchildren are living on fixed incomes. Some who do get governmental support say it is meager, but they are reluctant to get more involved with the child welfare system, even though it would mean more aid.

Some profess a lack of trust in the foster care system. They say they don't believe the intrusion would be in the best interest of their families. Others feel they're to blame for their offsprings' problems that rendered them unable to care for their own children.

"I was so mortified, embarrassed. I was thinking this was my fault," Barnes said.

The bottom line, they say, is many of these family caretakers are struggling.

"We truly are, as grandparents and most importantly the children, the silent victims of the opioid epidemic and the mental-health crisis in this country," Barnes said. "We are the silent victims that no one was even considering because we're all hiding."

But with a group like Grands Stepping Up, they're no longer alone. They are helping each other.

"It's like a parenting organization for grandparents," said Mary Eileen Johnston, 62, a Havertown grandmother raising her 4-year-old grandson. "I know they'll always be there for me even if it's just to ring and say, 'I need to talk.'"

Johnston discovered GSU on Facebook about two years ago. She stopped by the pantry to check it out, bringing some items to donate, and got to know some of the people active in GSU.

Community members have heard about GSU and decided to pitch in, like Amie and Jim Cannon, a Havertown couple who adopted five children from the foster care system. Jim Cannon has extended his Cannon Handyman Services to fix grandparents' heaters. Amie, meanwhile, helped run a project in which the grandchildren grew tomatoes that they presented to the grandparents.

"It's kids learning to give back," she said.

Many of these families also have mental-health needs.

Beth Tyson directs GSU's trauma-focused therapeutic services. At present, three licensed therapists offer counseling at no charge, but Tyson hopes to find others who will also volunteer services. Many of the children have experienced trauma and need mental health, but many of the grandparents could use help as well, said Tyson, a child trauma consultant and author.

"There are so many unique challenges that come along with raising your grandchild," she said.

In the coming year, she is planning on introducing webinars on trauma-informed parenting for these guardians, as well as hopefully yoga and meditation classes.

Expanding mental-health help and being able to offer more financial support are two of the ways Barnes would like to see Grands Stepping Up grow. Last year, the nonprofit got its first grant — about $20,000 from the Phillies baseball team — and Barnes hopes to apply for more.



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Hartford Courant
SPORTS
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

NO. 21 UCONN MEN 71, NO. 8 VILLANOVA 69

From ejection to elation: Huskies pull upset

Hurley tossed after back-to-back technicals before Cole's late plays deliver win over 'Cats

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

On Jan.18, 2020, UConn coach Dan Hurley declared, "It's coming," after his team had lost to Villanova. On Tuesday night at a packed XL Center, and in dramatic fashion, the Huskies may have finally arrived.

Seconds after Tyler Polley hit a three to cut a Villanova lead to one, guard R.J Cole hit the game-winning layup with 5.9 seconds left in the game leading to a stunning 71-69 signature win for the Huskies, and they did it without head coach Dan Hurley, who had been ejected in the first half.

Although UConn may have been led by Adama Sanogo's 20 points, it was Cole and Polley who came through when it mattered most. Cole had 12 points including the clutch bucket and Isaiah Whaley had 13. The Huskies defeated Villanova for the first time since 2014.

After Cole's layup, Villanova's Collin Gillespie was called for an offensive foul with one second left. On the next possession, Andre Jackson was fouled and made one free throw to clinch the game.

Hurley was ejected at the 4:53 mark in the first half after being assessed double technicals. Associate Head Coach Kimani Young took over for him the rest of the game.

The No. 21 Huskies (20-7, 11-5 Big East) now hold sole possession of the third place in the conference behind Providence and Villanova. The No.8 Wildcats (21-7, 14-4) remain in second place in the conference. UConn has three games remaining before the Big East tournament on March 9-12 at Madison Square Garden.



UConn's Isaiah Whaley, left, looks for room to shoot around Villanova's Jermaine Samuels in the first half Tuesday at the XL Center. **CLOE POISSON/ SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Pinkney helps East Hartford rally past Windsor

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

ENFIELD — Shailyn Pinkney was all the way on the other side of the court when she spotted a loose ball and she went right to it.

The clock was winding down to the end of the third quarter. Her East Hartford team had scored in single digits in the first half of the CCC tournament semifinal against Windsor. She was way beyond the 3-point line.

But none of that mattered; She shot the ball and it went in at the buzzer to end the third quarter. Pinkney's 3-pointer energized her team and the Hornets rode the momentum to rally in the fourth quarter and beat ninth-seeded Windsor 37-31 in the CCC semifinal Tuesday night at Enfield High.

East Hartford will play Newington, which beat Southington 56-37 in the second game of the doubleheader, in the CCC tournament final Thursday at 7 p.m. at Enfield High.

"They had already started their run, but that [shot] didn't help matters," Windsor coach Kirk Murad said. "The fact that she made a two-handed push shot from 35 feet fading away ...

"She did a good job. She's a great player and she got the best of us."

Pinkney led No. 4 seed East Hartford (21-2) with 17 points. She had 14 in the second half. Ayanna Franks had 11 points for Windsor.

"At that point, the momentum shifted," East Hartford coach Jon Myette said. "We were waiting for a moment like that. Sometimes you got to find a way to be resourceful and create it if it's not there. Someone like Shai will always find a way."

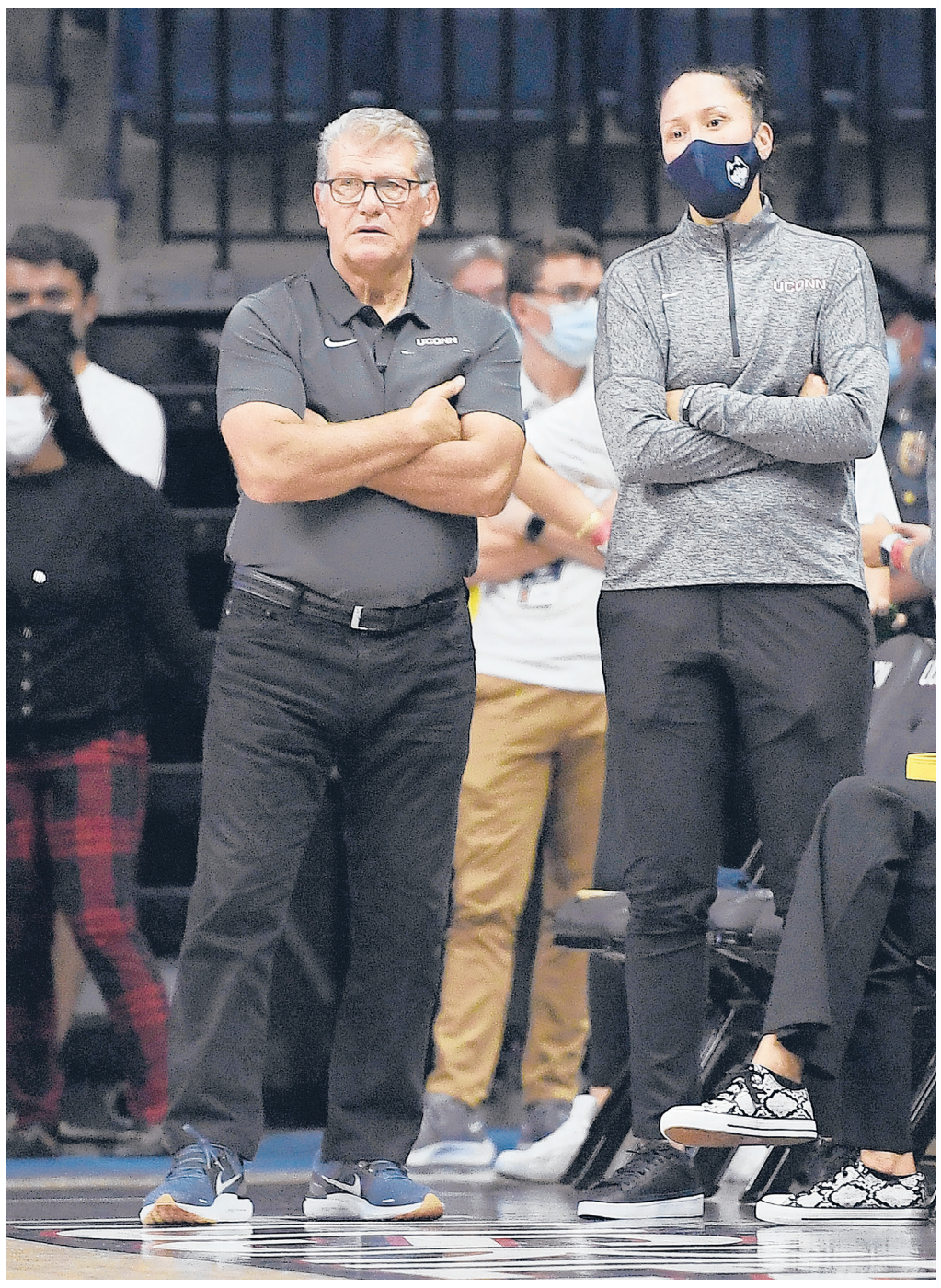
Windsor, which upset top-seeded Enfield in the quarterfinal, came out strong and East Hartford did not. The Warriors led 13-9 at halftime, and after a 9-0 run to open the second half they led 21-9.

Myette called a timeout at the 4-minute, 35-second mark and things quickly turned around.

East Hartford went on an 11-0 run to close out the quarter, punctuated by Pinkney's 3-pointer. East Hartford trailed

Turn to CCC, Page 2

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL MARQUETTE PREVIEW



UConn coach Geno Auriemma and assistant coach Morgan Valley watch First Night events for the men's and women's teams Oct. 15, 2021, in Storrs. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

'HOOP' DREAM

Assistant Morgan Valley's coaching odyssey makes homecoming to Storrs that much sweeter

By Alexa Philippou | Hartford Courant

Morgan Valley knew the moment she stepped foot on UConn's campus prior to her commitment that Storrs was the place she wanted to spend her collegiate career.

"I was like, this is the first time I've ever been around other young women who had the same goals as I did, wanted to play, wanted to hoop," Valley said.

Over two decades later, Valley finds herself back where it all started, this time part of Geno Auriemma's staff alongside the very figures who coached her from 2000-04. The three-time national champion returned to UConn in April as an assistant, replacing Shea Ralph upon her departure for Vanderbilt.

Valley's coaching odyssey had taken her to eight other schools before she turned 40 and further from her home state of Vermont than she ever anticipated. Landing back in Storrs though? That wasn't something Valley — whose playing career took its own unexpected path — had ever really envisioned for herself.

That whirlwind journey from Holy Cross to the University of Washington to Hartford and everywhere in between makes this homecoming that much sweeter for Valley.

"I'm just grateful to be here for so many different reasons, but to learn from coach [Geno Auriemma] and J [Jamelle Elliott] and

Turn to Valley, Page 4

Sharing gives UConn chance at league title

Huskies' signature unselfishness has them peaking as tourney approaches

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The last victory for the UConn women's basketball team was relatively ho-hum, as this tumultuous season has gone. But in beating Georgetown 90-49 last Sunday, the Huskies produced a few memorable highlights.

Christyn Williams' nifty move to the basket caused an opponent to fall down and her teammates on the bench to erupt. And then there was Nika Mühl setting an example of unselfishness. On one of UConn many turnover-driven fast-break opportunities, Mühl passed up an easy basket for herself and fed the ball to freshman Amari DeBerry for an even easier layup, bringing another celebration on the bench.

"Nika is very self-conscious about getting the ball to people, it makes her feel good," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "One of the things Nika always said when we were recruiting her, 'When you score, you're happy, and when you get an assist, two people are happy.' And she lives that, every day."

On a day UConn, with 22 assists on 33 buckets, was making the extra pass, Mühl made the extra-extra pass, and it created a feel-good moment, extending the Huskies' lead to 34 with 5:59 left.

"Everybody eats," said Mühl, using players' slang for scoring. "It would be nice for Amari to score, too. She was running very hard in transition, so you've got to reward that."

A couple of minutes later, Williams found DeBerry, who hit a wide-open 3-pointer.

DeBerry, the 6-foot-5 freshman from Williamsville, New York, has played in only nine of 24 games for the Huskies, who face Marquette at the XL Center on Wednesday at 7 p.m. ET. She has played only 59 minutes and gone 6-for-23, including 0-for-7 in 18 minutes against Butler in

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Up next

Marquette at UConn
7 p.m. Wed., SNY



Safety Tip of the Day

Keep your eyes peeled for bad road conditions. Remember that harsh winter weather breeds potholes and other driving obstacles.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: at Georgetown, Sunday, noon; at Creighton, March 2, 8:30 p.m.; DePaul (Gampel), March 5, time TBD
UConn WBB: Marquette (XL), Wednesday, 7 p.m.; St. John's (XL), Friday, 7 p.m.; Providence (Gampel), Sunday, 2 p.m.
Celtics: at Nets, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Pistons, Saturday, noon; at Pacers, Sunday, 5 p.m.
Knicks: Heat, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; 76ers, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at 76ers, March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: Celtics, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Bucks, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; Raptors, Monday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Northeastern, Friday, 7 p.m.; Northeastern, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Vermont, March 4, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Kraken, Thursday, 10 p.m.; at Sharks, Saturday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Monday, 10:30 p.m.
Rangers: Capitals, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Penguins, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Canucks, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; Providence, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Providence, Sunday, 3 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL
6:30 p.m.: Mississippi State at South Carolina. (Live) SEC
6:30 p.m.: Creighton at St. John's. (Live) FS1
7 p.m.: Women's College: Marquette at UConn. (Live), SNY
7 p.m.: Xavier at Providence. (Live) CBSSN
7 p.m.: Duke at Virginia. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: TCU at Texas. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: West Virginia at Iowa State. (Live) ESPNU
8 p.m.: Wake Forest at Clemson. (Live) ACC
8:30 p.m.: Ole Miss at Auburn. (Live) SEC
8:30 p.m.: Butler at Seton Hall. (Live) FS1
9 p.m.: Wyoming at Colorado State. (Live) CBSSN
9 p.m.: LSU at Kentucky. (Live) ESPN
9 p.m.: Cincinnati at UCF. (Live) ESPNU
11 p.m.: Washington at Washington State. (Live) ESPNU
11:30 p.m.: Athletes Unlimited Basketball Team Hawkins (Gold) vs. Team Brown (Purple). (Live) CBSSN
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Laval Rocket at Toronto Marlies. (Live) NHL
7:30 p.m.: Sabres at Canadiens. (Live) SPRTNET
7:30 p.m.: Oilers at Lightning. (Live) TNT
10 p.m.: Kings at Coyotes. (Live) TNT
LACROSSE
1 p.m.: Brown at North Carolina. (Live) ACC
SOCCER
2:30 p.m.: Fútbol UEFA Champions League (Live) UNI
3 p.m.: UEFA Champions League Atletico Madrid vs Manchester United. (Live) CBS
9 p.m.: SheBelieves Cup United States vs Iceland. (Live) ESPN2
10:30 p.m.: CONCACAF Champions League Soccer Pumas UNAM vs Deportivo Saprissa. (Live) FS1
SOFTBALL
3 p.m.: Georgia State at Georgia Tech. (Live) ACC

PATRIOTS

Flores says he's 'not mad' at Belichick over text exchange

By Karen Guregian
Boston Herald

BOSTON — While Brian Flores may have used a text exchange with Bill Belichick to trigger his lawsuit against the NFL, he claims he doesn't hold any ill will toward the Patriots head coach and his former mentor.

During a guest appearance on the *I Am Athlete* podcast, Flores characterized Belichick's text, which was used as evidence in his discrimination lawsuit against the NFL, as an honest mistake.

"I'm not mad," Flores said. "Bill did what a lot of us — he sent a text message to the wrong person. I'm certainly guilty of that before. To me, I thought it was specific to the lawsuit in that it confirmed a lot of the things that I thought were going on — that I think a lot of Black or minority coaches think are going on, it kind of confirmed it for me.

"As far as having a fair and equal opportunity to go and interview and show your acumen, show your intelligence, show your ability to lead, show your willingness and your leadership. Often times, it's not a fair and equal playing field."



Brian Flores and Bill Belichick shake hands after a 2019 Dolphins-Patriots game at Hard Rock Stadium. **MARK BROWN/GETTY**

Belichick reportedly sent a congratulatory text to the former Dolphins head coach several days before Flores' actual interview with the New York Giants. The message was intended for Brian Daboll, another former Patriots assistant, who ultimately got the job.

Flores, just hired by the Pittsburgh Steelers to be a senior defensive assistant, went on to sing Belichick's praises as a coach.

"He's certainly (the GOAT)," Flores said. "I think the one thing people don't know about Bill is he listens. He listens. So if you have — and again, you've gotta earn the right for him to listen — but if you have an idea, if you have a thought, if you have a person or there's a matchup you think that we can win, a part in the game, he'll listen."



Former UConn star Sue Bird officially re-signed Friday with the Seattle Storm, her only WNBA team, in what is expected to be her final season. **ELAINE THOMPSON/AP**

WNBA

Bird: 'All signs' point to '22 being her last season

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Sue Bird seemed a little uneasy sitting behind a microphone and listening to her coach and general manager shower her with praise.

"I probably could have stayed in the other room for those comments. Gets a little awkward up here listening to people talk about you in that way," Bird joked.

Bird may need to get used to that kind of attention coming her way from around the WNBA for the upcoming season. She said Tuesday that all signs are pointing toward the 2022 season being her last with the Seattle Storm, but she does not want the upcoming season to be a farewell tour.

"I think it's assumed to be my last and I do believe all arrows are pointing in that direction," Bird said . "For some reason, I don't necessarily want to operate in that space because I think for my personality ... it doesn't necessarily fit for every game I go into to be, 'This is Sue's last game in this city. This is her last time putting her shoe on.' I don't really operate in that space well, but I understand that comes with it."

Bird, a four-time WNBA champion, 12-time All-Star and the oldest player in the league at 41, had previously announced she would return for one more season. She waited until Seattle finished its offseason maneuvers — including bringing back Jewell Loyd and Breanna Stewart — before signing her deal with the Storm last week.

Bird said she expected the first question to be about whether the upcoming season would be her last.

"I feel really lucky that I get to be in this position to make this decision. It gets to be on my terms," Bird said. "Not a lot of athletes are afforded that opportunity. Obviously, Lauren Jackson being one I witnessed firsthand having injuries and things like that being the reason for her decision. So I just feel really lucky."

Bird has spent her entire WNBA career with Seattle since becoming the No. 1 pick in 2002 following her storied college career at Connecticut. This season will be her 21st associated with the franchise, although just her 19th playing after missing two seasons due to injuries. She's the league's all-time leader in assists and the standard by which other point guards are judged.

But she's also at the stage where she's playing alongside teammates who have parents her same age. Bird joked that her warmups take as long as her workouts now. And while Bird doesn't want to close the book on the future, it's clear all parties are viewing this season as the likely conclusion.

"She's been an amazing example for me, for women in general and for everyone who enjoys the sport of basketball," Seattle coach Noelle Quinn said. "So for this season, I know it's going to be her finale, but I'm not even thinking about that."

Bird said last season was the first time she played with the idea of possibly retiring in her mind. Seattle lost to Phoenix in the second round of the WNBA playoffs while Stewart was injured and Bird was met with chants of "one more year" from the home crowd after the loss.

Bird said that resonated and within a few days she called her trainer and decided to start preparing to play in 2022.

"The fans chanted and I think it just gave me this whole other perspective on things," Bird said. "I never thought this was just about me, but that really made me realize this decision is not just about me."

RED SOX

Houck had the type of season that has become an issue in labor talks

By Alex Speier
Boston Globe

BOSTON — By virtually any measure, Tanner Houck was one of the best Red Sox pitchers of 2021.

Among the seven pitchers who made at least five starts for Boston, Houck ranked second in ERA (3.52), first in expected ERA (3.20 as calculated by Baseball-Savant.com), and first in strikeout percentage (30.5 percent). He combined nasty stuff with poise, maturity, and competitiveness, allowing him to be a consistent contributor whenever handed the ball. He did not allow more than three earned runs in any start, whether in the second game of the regular season (5 innings, 2 earned runs, 8 strikeouts) or the second to last (five perfect innings and eight strikeouts against the Nationals).

Yet despite his contributions, Houck spent just 64 days in the big leagues while remaining on Triple A Worcester's roster for 122 days. That service-time split meant Houck earned roughly $217,000 in the big leagues and about $58,000 in the minors — a total of roughly $275,000, or less than half of the major league minimum of $570,500.

That development was possible because teams can yo-yo young major leaguers on and off their big league roster — something the MLB Players Association and Major League Baseball have agreed to address in a new collective bargaining agreement.

Houck was a steady presence in the Red Sox transactions log. He was sent (at least on paper) to Worcester seven times, and promoted to the big leagues seven times. During one particularly absurd three-week stretch of July and August, the righthander stayed largely on turn for four starts in the Red Sox big league rotation while being sent back to the minors immediately after each.

Part of Houck's limited service time owed to the fact that the Sox opened the year with five veterans in their rotation — with Nate Eovaldi, Nick Pivetta, Eduardo Rodriguez (after missing his first start of the year), Martín Pérez, and Garrett Richards remaining remarkably healthy. Once Rodriguez was ready to enter the rotation, Houck was sent to the minors to remain stretched out as a depth option.

Houck, meanwhile, was sidelined for roughly six weeks in May and June while on Worcester's roster because of soreness in his flexor muscle.

When he returned to health, the Sox determined he was positioned to help in the second half, calling him up after the All-Star break. He contributed throughout the second half in the big leagues.

But the Sox shuffled him between Boston and Worcester repeatedly, often after spending just one day in the big leagues for a start. While players by rule have to remain in the minors for at least 10 days after being optioned, the Sox were able to work around that by calling up Houck as the 27th player on the roster for three doubleheaders — a role exempted from the 10-day option requirement.

The Sox had Houck pitch in the second game of a doubleheader on July 28, optioned him after the game; called him up for another doubleheader on Aug. 7, returned him to Triple A after the game; called him up on Aug. 12, moved him back to the Worcester roster immediately after the game; brought him up as the 27th man for a doubleheader against the Yankees on Aug. 17, returned him to Worcester after the game; and finally called him up for the rest of the season on Aug. 24.

Why all the shuttling? It's all done in the name of roster flexibility. Because Houck was unavailable to pitch in the wake of a start, the Sox could add a bullpen arm to cover innings if he was off the roster, then bring him back for his next start.

There are certainly baseball reasons for a team to manage its roster by maintaining a revolving door between the big leagues and minors. And the Sox were operating within their rights in bouncing the 25-year-old between their top minor league affiliate and the big leagues.

YANKEES

Club will retire O'Neill's No. 21

By Matthew Roberson
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Add another plaque to the crowded wall of retired numbers at Yankee Stadium.

On Tuesday, the Yankees announced that they will retire Paul O'Neill's No. 21 this season. With his pregame ceremony on Aug. 21, O'Neill will become the 23rd player or manager to have their number retired. The outfielder-turned-broadcaster who won four World Series titles with the Yankees already had a plaque in Monument Park honoring his contributions to the team, but now he receives the franchise's highest honor.

The Yankees have not retired a number since they hung Derek Jeter's No. 2 in 2017. With 21 now off the table, 11, 12, 14, 18, 19 and 22 are the only numbers under 28 that are neither retired nor worn by a current player or coach.

O'Neill played the final nine seasons of his career with the Yankees, helping them break their playoff drought in 1995 and later their World Series drought. He'd appear in five total World Series with the Bombers in addition to his one with Cincinnati in 1990. Over his nine years in the Bronx, the tenacious veteran hit .303 with a .377 on-base percentage and .492 slugging percentage. His .359 batting average during the strike-shortened 1994 season also won him a batting title. From 1993 to 2001, the entirety of his Yankee career, O'Neill was worth 26.7 Wins Above Replacement, making him the eighth-most valuable American League outfielder during that stretch.

In 304 postseason plate appearances with the Yankees, O'Neill hit .281 and socked 10 home runs, 14 doubles and drove in 34 runs in 76 games. At 37 years old, he had a strong case for MVP of the 2000 World Series, ultimately losing to Jeter. In that five-game triumph over the Mets, O'Neill slashed .474/.545/.789 with four of his nine hits going for extra bases, including two triples.

Early in his Yankee tenure, he also made a sterling defensive play to help seal the first World Series win of the dynastic run. In Game 5 of the 1996 series in Atlanta, O'Neill ranged deep into the gap to make a stabbing catch for the game's final out, preserving a 1-0 win.

Other memorable O'Neill postseason moments include his ten-pitch walk against Armando Benitez in Game 1 of the Subway Series (a game which the Yankees were losing until O'Neill sparked a rally) and winning the 1999 championship after his father passed away during the World Series.

While two short-lived Yankees (LaTroy Hawkins and Morgan Ensberg in 2008) have worn 21 since O'Neill retired, the number has basically been on ice for years. In 2017 when New Jersey native Todd Frazier was traded to the Yankees, he asked to wear the number specifically as a tribute to O'Neill. Instead, Frazier was given No. 29 after the equipment staff explained the potential controversy it could drum up, as both Hawkins and Ensberg were booed for having the audacity to wear an unretired number, even though Ensberg switched away from it during spring training.

CCC

from Page 1

21-20. Victoria Silva-Soto hit a jumper to open the fourth and put the Hornets up 22-21 and they went on another run. After another 3 by Pinkney, they led 28-21.

"We came out very slow," Pinkney said. "We knew they were going to have energy, but our energy wasn't there. But we started to get that momentum in the third and fourth quarter.

"We missed a lot of shots, I feel like that was the main problem. I knew we could come back."



East Hartford's Victoria Silva-Soto (14) goes up for a shot while Windsor's Janet Woodward (24) contests during a CCC tournament semifinal Tuesday. **LORI RILEY/HARTFORD COURANT**

Newington wins

Bela Cucuta had 20 points and Lilly Ferguson added 19 for Newington as the Nor'easters beat Southington to advance to the final for the second straight year. Newington beat Windsor for its first CCC title last year during the abbreviated season due to COVID-19.

The win set up a rematch between Newington and East Hartford, the only team to beat the Nor'easters this season. The Hornets beat East Hartford 52-37 on Jan. 28.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	50	35	10	5	75	208	145
Tampa Bay	49	32	11	6	70	169	139
Toronto	49	32	14	3	67	176	137
Boston	50	29	17	4	62	145	139
Detroit	51	23	22	6	52	147	176
Ottawa	49	18	26	5	41	130	156
Buffalo	51	16	27	8	40	138	182
Montreal	51	11	33	7	29	117	197
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	50	35	11	4	74	176	121
Pittsburgh	52	31	13	8	70	173	140
N.Y. Rangers	50	32	13	5	69	151	127
Washington	52	28	15	9	65	171	145
Columbus	49	25	23	1	51	163	180
N.Y. Islanders	45	18	20	7	43	111	126
Philadelphia	50	15	25	10	40	128	176
New Jersey	50	17	28	5	39	146	182

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	50	36	10	4	76	199	143
Minnesota	47	31	13	3	65	183	143
St. Louis	49	29	14	6	64	175	137
Nashville	50	28	18	4	60	153	143
Dallas	49	27	20	2	56	143	145
Winnipeg	50	22	20	8	52	145	150
Chicago	52	18	26	8	44	126	176
Arizona	50	13	33	4	30	114	186
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Calgary	49	30	13	6	66	169	114
Vegas	51	29	18	4	62	169	150
Edmonton	50	28	19	3	59	168	161
Los Angeles	50	26	17	7	59	147	141
Anaheim	52	24	19	9	57	156	158
Vancouver	52	24	22	6	54	140	148
San Jose	49	22	22	5	49	131	154
Seattle	52	16	32	4	36	135	185

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Minnesota at Ottawa, late
Nashville at Florida, late
St. Louis at Philadelphia, late
Toronto at Columbus, late
N.Y. Islanders at Seattle, late
San Jose at Anaheim, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Buffalo at Montreal, 7:30p.m.
Colorado at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
Edmonton at Tampa Bay, 7:30p.m.
Winnipeg at Dallas, 7:30p.m.
Los Angeles at Arizona, 10p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Columbus at Florida, 7p.m.
Minnesota at Toronto, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 8:30p.m.
Boston at Seattle, 10p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Boston 5, Colorado 1
Carolina 4, Philadelphia 3 (OT)
Calgary 3, Winnipeg 1
Montreal 5, Toronto 2
Vancouver 5, Seattle 2

SEASON SCORING LEADERS

POINTS	GP	G	A	PT
Connor McDavid, EDM	49	26	45	71
Jon. Huberdeau, FLA	50	17	53	70
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	50	35	35	70
Johnny Gaudreau, CGY	49	20	44	64
Nazem Kadri, COL	47	21	42	63
Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	46	23	39	62
Alex Ovechkin, WSH	50	31	31	62

through Monday

TENNIS

ATP DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
At Dubai Tennis Stadium, Dubai, U.A.E., hardcourt-outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
#2 Andrey Rublev d. Daniel Evans, 6-4, 7-5.
#4 Jannik Sinner d. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, 4-6, 7-6(6), 6-3.
#5 Hubert Hurkacz d. Alexander Bublik, 6-3, 6-1.
#6 Denis Shapovalov d. Marton Fucsovics, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.
Mackenzie McDonald d. #7 Aslan Karatsev, 7-5, 6-3.
#8 Roberto Bautista Agut d. Arthur Rinderknech, 6-3, 6-4.
Alex Molcan d. Lloyd Harris, 6-3, 6-3.
Kwon Soon Woo d. Ilya Ivashka, 6-3, 6-2.
Karen Khachanov d. Alex de Minaur, 6-3, 6-7(1), 7-5.
Ricardas Berankis d. Jan-Lennard Struff, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.
Alexei Popyrin d. Nikoloz Basilashvili, 6-2, 6-3.

WTA QATAR OPEN
At Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex, Doha, Qata, outdoors-hard
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
#2 Barbora Krejcikova d. Magda Linette, 6-1, 6-3.
#3 Paula Badosa d. Clara Tauson, 6-1, 6-2.
#6 Maria Sakkari d. Ann Li, 6-3, 6-3.
#7 Iga Swiatek d. Viktorija Golubic, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.
#8 Ons Jabeur d. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.
#9 Jessica Pegula d. Kaja Juvan, 6-3, 6-3
Madison Brengle d. #12 Victoria Azarenka, walkover.
#14 Coco Gauff d. Caroline Garcia, 6-2, 7-6(3).
#15 Jelena Ostapenko d. Amanda Anisimova, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.
#16 Elise Mertens d. Petra Kvitova, 7-5, 1-2, ret.
Daria Kasatkina d. Jaqueline Adina Cristian, 2-6, 2-2, ret.
Tereza Martincova d. Arantxa Rus, 6-2, 6-4.
Jil Teichmann d. Alison van Uytvanck, 7-6(9), 7-5.
Aryna Sabalenka d. Alize Cornet, 6-2, 6-2.

ATP CHILE OPEN
At Club Deportivo Universidad Catolica, Santiago, Chile, outdoor-Red clay
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
Yannick Hanfmann d. #5 Federico Coria, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.
#6 Miomir Kecmanovic d. Marco Cecchinato, 7-5, 6-1.
#7 Sebastian Baez d. Juan Pablo Varillas, 6-4, 6-4.
Jaume Munar d. Daniel Elahi Galan, 6-1, 6-3.
Hugo Dellien d. Gonzalo Lama, 6-3, 6-4.
Carlos Taberne d. Juan Manuel Cerundolo, 6-2, 7-5.
Matheus Pucinelli De Almeida d. Holger Rune, 6-4, 6-4.
Alejandro Tabilo d. Renzo Olivo, 6-1, 6-3

WTA ABIERTO AKRON ZAPOPAN
At Panamerican Tennis Center, Guadalajara, Mexico, outdoors-hardcourt
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
#1 Emma Raducanu vs. Daria Saville, late
#3 Sara Sorribes d. Katie Volynets, 6-4, 6-1.
#4 Maria Camila Osorio Serrano d. Viktoriya Tomova, 6-4, 6-3.
Hailey Baptiste d. Viktoria Kuzmova, 6-3, 6-3.
Xinyu Wang d. Panna Udvardy, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.
Chloe Paquet d. Rebeka Masarova, 7-5, 7-5.
Caroline Dolehide vs. Lin Zhu, late
Magdalena Frech vs. Renata Zarazua, late

ATP ABIERTO MEXICANO TELCEL
At Arena GNP Seguros., Acapulco, Mexico; outdoors-hardcourt
MEN'S FIRST-ROUND SINGLES
#1 Daniil Medvedev d. Benoit Paire, 6-3, 6-4
#2 Alexander Zverev d. Jenson Brooksby, 3-6, 7-6(10), 6-2.
#4 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. Laslo Djere, late
#4 Rafael Nadal vs. Rafael Nadal, late
Tommy Paul d. #5 Matteo Berrettini, 4-6, 5-1, retired.
#6 Cameron Norrie vs. Daniel Altmaier, alte
Yoshihito Nishioka vs. Feliciano Lopez, late
Marcos Giron vs. John Millman, late
Alex Hernandez vs. Pablo Andujar, late
Lorenzo Sonego vs. Jeffrey John Wolf, late

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	35	23	.603	—
Boston	34	26	.567	2
Toronto	32	25	.561	2 ½
Brooklyn	31	28	.525	4 ½
New York	25	34	.424	10 ½
SOUTHEAST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Miami	38	21	.644	—
Atlanta	28	30	.483	9 ½
Charlotte	29	31	.483	9 ½
Washington	27	31	.466	10 ½
Orlando	13	47	.217	25 ½
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Chicago	38	21	.644	—
Cleveland	35	23	.603	2 ½
Milwaukee	36	24	.600	2 ½
Indiana	20	40	.333	18 ½
Detroit	13	45	.224	24 ½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	41	19	.683	—
Dallas	35	24	.593	5 ½
San Antonio	23	36	.390	17 ½
New Orleans	23	36	.390	17 ½
Houston	15	43	.259	25
NORTHWEST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Utah	36	22	.621	—
Denver	33	25	.569	3
Minnesota	31	28	.525	5 ½
Portland	25	34	.424	11 ½
Oklahoma City	18	40	.310	18
PACIFIC	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Phoenix	48	10	.828	—
Golden State	42	17	.712	6 ½
L.A. Clippers	30	31	.492	19 ½
L.A. Lakers	27	31	.466	21
Sacramento	22	38	.367	27

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
No games, All-Star break

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Cleveland at Detroit, 7p.m.
Boston at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8p.m.
Memphis at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Phoenix at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
Denver at Sacramento, 10p.m.
Golden State at Portland, 10p.m.

SEASON EXPANDED STANDINGS

TEAM	HOME	SITE ROAD	vs DIV	MARGIN ≤3	MARGIN ≥10
Phx	26-5	22-5	6-4	3-2	27-6
G.S.	26-6	16-11	9-2	6-4	25-6
Mem	20-10	21-9	6-4	4-3	23-12
Chi	23-8	15-13	7-3	4-4	20-10
Mia	19-7	19-14	11-2	3-5	22-11
Mil	20-11	16-13	8-3	1-1	24-10
Utah	21-10	15-12	1101	1-5	26-7
Cle	18-9	17-14	7-3	8-3	20-12
Dal	20-11	15-13	11-2	3-5	20-9
Phi	16-13	19-10	4-7	5-5	19-8
Bos	20-11	14-15	7-6	3-7	23-8
Den	16-10	17-15	4-8	8-2	16-14
Tor	16-13	16-12	5-5	3-5	16-10
Brk	13-15	18-13	7-2	6-1	13-17
Min	17-11	14-17	7-4	4-3	19-17
LAC	18-13	12-18	5-6	8-4	14-16
Char	14-14	15-17	5-7	5-7	14-17
Atl	17-13	11-17	7-5	5-2	17-15
LAL	18-13	9-18	2-8	5-5	10-12
Was	15-15	12-16	6-6	10-4	7-17
N.Y.	13-17	12-17	4-7	3-4	11-16
Por	16-16	9-18	1-8	1-4	11-24
N.O.	13-17	10-19	4-7	3-2	13-24
S.A.	11-18	12-18	4-6	2-3	15-18
Sac	15-17	7-21	5-7	4-6	10-22
Ind	14-17	6-23	2-11	2-11	11-13
OkC	9-19	9-21	3-5	6-5	6-20
Hou	8-18	7-25	2-8	3-4	5-34
Det	8-20	5-25	3-7	3-3	4-29
Orl	5-21	8-26	2-11	2-5	4-31

source: basketball-reference.com

STANDSINGS AT 2021 ASG BREAK

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	PPG	PA/G
Phi	24	12	.667	—	114.7	111.2
Brk	24	13	.649	½	121.1	116.1
Mil	22	14	.611	2	118.8	112.5
Bos	19	17	.528	5	111.7	110.8
N.Y.	19	18	.514	5½	104.9	104.4
Mia	18	18	.500	6	106.8	108.4
Char	17	18	.486	6½	112.7	113.2
Tor	17	19	.472	7	113.0	111.6
Chi	16	18	.471	7	115.0	115.2
Ind	16	19	.457	7½	112.8	112.5
Atl	16	20	.444	8	112.6	112.2
Was	14	20	.412	9	114.8	119.1
Cle	14	22	.389	10	104.6	112.1
Orl	13	23	.361	11	105.6	112.2
Det	10	26	.278	14	108.0	111.9

WEST	W	L	PCT.	GB	PPG	PA/G
Utah	27	9	.750	—	116.6	107.8
Phx	24	11	.686	2½	113.6	107.1
LAL	24	13	.649	3½	111.4	106.3
LAC	24	14	.632	4	114.8	109.4
Por	21	14	.600	5½	114.5	114.9
Den	21	15	.583	6	115.9	110.6
G.S.	19	18	.514	8½	113.4	112.9
S.A.	18	14	.563	7	111.0	110.9
Dal	18	16	.529	8	111.8	112.3
Mem	16	16	.500	9	111.6	110.8
N.O.	15	21	.417	12	115.5	115.9
OkC	15	21	.417	12	105.9	111.4
Sac	14	22	.389	13	114.7	120.4
Hou	11	23	.324	15	107.6	112.8
Min	7	29	.194	20	107.9	117.0

Conference standings of March 7, 2021; 2021season began on Dec. 22, 2020.

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL FAVORITE	LINE	WEDNESDAY UNDERDOG
Mississippi State	2½	at South Carolina
at St. John's (NY)	5	Creighton
at Texas	9	TCU
Chattanooga	3½	at ETSU
at Notre Dame	4	Syracuse
at Mercer	7	The Citadel
Wofford	1½	at VMI
at Towson	10½	JMU
Duke	4½	at Virginia
Davidson	8½	at Duquesne
La-Lafayette	1	at Ga. Southern
Northern Iowa	5	at Indiana State
at Providence	1½	Xavier
Drake	5½	at Valparaiso
at NC Greensboro	11	Western Carolina
at Iowa State	5	West Virginia
at NC State	6	Boston College
Wake Forest	1½	at Clemson
at Dayton	13	UMass
at Georgia State	11½	La. Monroe
at Fordham	4	La Salle
at Troy	4	Texas Arlington
at East Carolina	7	South Florida
at VCU	5½	George Mason
Appalachian St.	7½	at Ark Little Rock
at South Alabama	3½	Texas State
at Arkansas St.	1½	Coastal Carolina
at Missouri State	5½	Bradley
at Southern Illinois	6	Illinois State
at Loyola (Chi.)	21	Evansville
Furman	5½	at Samford
Houston	7½	at Tulane
at SMU	11	Tulsa
Grand Canyon	14	at Chicago State
at Auburn	16	Mississippi
Virginia Tech	5½	at Georgia Tech
at UCF	3	Cincinnati
Wisconsin	5	at Minnesota
at Kentucky	7½	LSU
at Colorado State	6	Wyoming
at Washington St.	8	Washington

NHL FAVORITE	LINE	WEDNESDAY UNDERDOG	LINE
at Montreal	off	Buffalo	off
Colorado	-320	at Detroit	+255
at Tampa Bay	-196	Edmonton	+162
at Dallas	-160	Winnipeg	+132
Los Angeles	-235	at Arizona	+190

2021-22 NBA FINALS CHAMPION

TM	OP	NOW	TM	OP	NOW
G.S.	12-1	17-4	Phx	13-1	17-4
Brk	2-1	6-1	Mil	9-1	7-1
Phi	16-1	8-1	Miami	35-1	2-1
Utah	14-1	18-1	Bos	50-1	28-1
Mem	100-1	28-1	Chi	100-1	30-1
Den	20-1	35-1	LAL	21-4	45-1
Dal	28-1	50-1	Cle	500-1	60-1
LAC	20-1	80-1	Tor	80-1	100-1
Atl	35-1	150-1	Min	250-1	150-1
Char	100-1	200-1	Det	500-1	1000-1
Hou	500-1	1000-1	Ind	100-1	1000-1
N.O.	80-1	1000-1	N.Y.	100-1	1000-1
OkC	500-1	1000-1	Orl	500-1	1000-1
Por	50-1	1000-1	Sac	250-1	1000-1
S.A.	250-1	1000-1	Was	150-1	1000-1

OP-opening (July 21, 2021; NOW-current odds. For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
1. Gonzaga (23-2) did not play. Next: at San Francisco, Thursday.
2. Arizona (24-2) did not play. Next: at Utah, Thursday.
3. Auburn (24-3) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi, Wednesday.
4. Purdue (24-4) did not play. Next: at Michigan State, Saturday.
5. Kansas (22-4) vs. Kansas State. Next: at #10 Baylor, Saturday
6. Kentucky (22-5) did not play. Next: vs. LSU, Wednesday.
7. Duke (23-4) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Wednesday.
8. Villanova (21-6) at #21 UConn. Next: vs. #11 Providience, Tuesday.
9. Texas Tech (21-6) vs. Oklahoma. Next: at TCU, Saturday.
10. Baylor (23-5) did not play. Next: vs. #5 Kansas, Saturday.
11. Providence (22-3) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Wednesday.
12. UCLA (20-5) did not play. Next: at Oregon, Thursday.
13. Wisconsin (21-5) did not play. Next: at Minnesota, Wednesday.
14. Houston (22-4) did not play. Next: at Tulane, Wednesday.
15. Illinois (19-7) did not play. Next: vs. #22 Ohio St., Thursday.
16. Southern Cal (23-4) did not play. Next: at Oregon St., Thursday.
17. Tennessee (20-7) beat Missouri 80-61. Next: vs. Auburn, Saturday.
18. Arkansas (22-6) beat Florida 82-74. Next: vs. #6 Kentucky, Saturday.
19. Murray State (26-2) did not play. Next: vs. Belmont, Thursday.
20. Texas (19-8) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Wednesday.
21. UConn (19-7) vs. #8 Villanova. Next: at Georgetown, Sunday.
22. Ohio State (17-7) did not play. Next: at Maryland, Sunday.
23. Saint Mary's (Cal) (22-6) did not play. Next: at San Diego, Thursday.
24. Alabama (17-10) at Vanderbilt. Next: vs. South Carolina, Saturday.
25. Iowa (19-8) beat Michigan State 86-60. Next: at Nebraska, Friday.

TUESDAY'S SCORES
EAST
Monmouth (NJ) 71, Siena 59
Richmond 84, George Washington 71
St. Bonaventure 73, Rhode Island 55
Yale 66, Dartmouth 61
MIDWEST
Akron 82, Bowling Green 68
Ohio 76, Cent. Michigan 50
St. Thomas (MN) 84, North Dakota 74
Toledo 92, W. Michigan 50

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE
1. S. Carolina (25-1): at Texas A&M, Thu.
2. Stanford (23-3): vs. Wash. St., Thu.
3. NC State (25-3): at #23 Va. Tech, Sun.
4. Louisville (23-3): at Pittsburgh, Thu.
5. Baylor (21-5): at Oklahoma St., Wed.
6. Michigan (21-4): vs. Michigan St., Thu.
7. UConn (19-5): vs. Marquette, Wed.
8. LSU (23-4): vs. Alabama, Thursday.
9. Iowa State (22-4): at Kansas, Wed.
10. Indiana (19-6): at #13 Maryland, Fri.
11. Texas (19-6): at Kansas State, Wed.
12. Arizona (19-5): vs. Southern Cal, Sat.
13. Maryland (20-7): vs #10 Indiana, Fri.
14. Notre Dame (20-6): vs. Clemson, Thu.
15. Florida (20-7): at Vanderbilt, Thu.
16. Tennessee (21-6): vs. Miss. St., Thu.
17. Ohio State (20-5): vs. Penn St., Thu.
18. N. Carolina (21-5): at Virginia, Thu.
19. BYU (23-2): at Santa Clara, Thu.
20. Oklahoma (20-6): at TCU. Wed.
21. Iowa (18-7): at Rutgers, Thursday.
22. Georgia Tech (19-8): at Florida St., Thu.
23. Virginia Tech (20-7): vs. Miami, Thu.
24. Fla. Gulf Coast (24-2): at Liberty, Thu.
25. Oregon (18-9): at Colorado, Wed.
25. Georgia (18-8): at Arkansas, Thu.

GOLF

PGA TOUR MONEY LEADERS

RK. GOLFER	EV	MONEY
1. Hideki Matsuyama	9	$3,897,233
2. Tom Hoge	14	$3,208,340
3. Scottie Scheffler	9	$3,091,814
4. Joaquin Niemann	8	$2,822,257
5. Collin Morikawa	4	$2,666,322
6. Talor Gooch	12	$2,629,182
7. Sungjae Im	9	$2,363,018
8. Luke List	11	$2,329,333
9. Cameron Smith	6	$2,197,375
10. Viktor Hovland	6	$2,083,781
11. Sam Burns	8	$2,067,031
12. Rory McIlroy	2	$2,058,000
13. Cameron Tringale	11	$2,054,528
14. Patrick Cantlay	5	$1,971,600
15. Cameron Young	9	$1,916,342
16. Max Homa	8	$1,881,888
17. Jon Rahm	6	$1,699,630
18. Justin Thomas	6	$1,677,689
19. Jason Kokrak	6	$1,671,260
20. Maverick McNealy	10	$1,661,924
21. Seamus Power	12	$1,588,217
22. Will Zalatoris	8	$1,556,562
23. Hudson Swafford	11	$1,547,594
24. Russell Henley	9	$1,513,083
25. Mackenzie Hughes	8	$1,470,091
26. Keith Mitchell	10	$1,377,735
27. Marc Leishman	8	$1,354,296
28. Matthew Wolff	6	$1,312,886
29. Jordan Spieth	6	$1,287,799
30. Lucas Herbert	6	$1,272,000
31. Lanto Griffin	10	$1,183,694
32. Sebastián Muñoz	11	$1,167,980
33. Xander Schauffele	6	$1,071,475
34. Si Woo Kim	11	$1,069,498
35. Denny McCarthy	11	$1,047,748
36. Brendan Steele	10	$1,019,341
37. Adam Scott	6	$1,004,599
38. Carlos Ortiz	9	$980,917
39. Mito Pereira	11	$942,930
40. Matt Jones	11	$925,992

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	26	20	3	3	63	17	63
Liverpool	25	17	6	2	64	20	57
Chelsea	25	14	8	3	49	18	50
Man United	26	13	7	6	44	34	46
West Ham	26	12	6	8	45	34	42
Arsenal	23	13	3	7	36	26	42
Wolverhampton	24	12	4	8	23	18	40
Tottenham	23	12	3	8	31	31	39
Brighton	25	7	12	6	25	28	33
Southampton	25	7	11	7	32	37	32
Leicester	23	7	6	10	37	43	27
Aston Villa	24	8	3	13	31	37	27
Crystal Palace	25	5	11	9	32	36	26
Brentford	26	6	6	14	27	42	24
Leeds	24	5	8	11	29	50	23
Everton	23	6	4	13	28	40	22
Newcastle	24	4	10	10	26	45	22
Watford	24	5	3	16	24	43	18
Burnley	22	2	11	9	20	29	17
Norwich	25	4	5	16	15	53	17

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES
Burnley vs. Tottenham, 2:30p.m.
Watford vs. Crystal Palace, 2:30p.m.
Liverpool vs. Leeds, 2:45p.m.

THURSDAY'S MATCH
Arsenal vs. Wolverhampton, 2:45p.m.

FRIDAY'S MATCH
Southampton vs. Norwich, 3p.m.
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
TUESDAY'S FIRST LEG
Chelsea 2, Lille 0
Villarreal 1, Juventus) 1
WEDNESDAY'S LEG
Atlético Madrid vs. Man United, 3p.m.
Benfica vs. Ajax, 3p.m.

U.S. WOMEN'S SCHEDULE
s-Wednesday: vs. Iceland, 9 p.m. at Toyota Stadium, Frisco, Texas
s-SheBelieves Cup

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER
SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 1p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 3:30p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles FC, 3:30p.m.
Toronto FC at FC Dallas, 5:30p.m.
FC Cincinnati at Austin FC, 6 p.m.
Charlotte FC at D.C. United, 6p.m.
Chicago at Inter Miami CF, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Red Bulls at San Jose, 6p.m.
New England at Portland, 7:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
CF Montreal at Orlando City SC, 1 p.m.
Sporting KC at Atlanta United FC, 3p.m.
New York FC at LA Galaxy, 5 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Houston, 7 p.m.
Nashville SC at Seattle FC, 8p.m.



U.S. women's soccer team stars Alex Morgan, left, and Megan Rapinoe, seen above in 2019, were instrumental in garnering public support for the players' equal pay lawsuit. **AP FILE**

SOCCER

US women settle landmark lawsuit

Players reach agreement for equal pay, $24M in damages

By Anne M. Peterson and Ronald Blum
Associated Press

U.S. women soccer players reached a landmark agreement with the sport's American governing body to end a six-year legal battle over equal pay, a deal in which they are promised $24 million plus bonuses that match those of the men.

The U.S. Soccer Federation and the women announced a deal Tuesday that will have players split $22 million, about one-third of what they had sought in damages. The USSF also agreed to establish a fund with $2 million to benefit the players in their post-soccer careers and charitable efforts aimed at growing the sport for women.

The USSF committed to providing an equal rate of pay for the women's and men's national teams — including World Cup bonuses — subject to collective bargaining agreements with the unions that separately represent the women and men.

"For our generation, knowing that we're going to leave the game in an exponentially better place than when we found it is everything," 36-year-old midfielder Megan Rapinoe said during a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "That's what it's all about because, to be honest, there is no justice in all of this if we don't make sure it never happens again."

The settlement was a victory for the players, who sparked fans to chant "Equal Pay!" when they won their second straight title in France in 2019.

And it was a success for USSF President Cindy Parlow Cone, a former player who became head of the federation in March 2020.

Cone replaced Carlos Cordeiro, who quit after the federation made a legal filing that claimed women had less physical ability and responsibility than male counterparts.

"This is just one step towards rebuilding the relationship with the women's team. I think this is a great accomplishment and I'm excited about the future and working together with them," Cone said. "Now we can shift the focus to other things, most importantly, growing the game at all levels and increasing opportunities for girls and women."

U.S. women have won four World Cups since the program's start in 1985, while the men haven't reached a semifinal since 1930.

Five American stars led by Alex Morgan and Rapinoe began the challenge with a complaint to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in April 2016. Women sued three years later, seeking damages under the federal Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

The sides settled the working conditions portion in December 2020, dealing with issues such as charter flights, accommodations and playing surfaces. They were scheduled to argue on March 7 before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in an attempt to reinstate the equal pay portion thrown out by a U.S. District Court.

"The settlement announced today is an important step in righting the many wrongs of the past," the union for the women's team said in a statement.

While a labor contract remains to be reached and ratified to replace the deal that expires March 31, the settlement was an enormous step.

"It's so gratifying to feel like we can start to mend a relationship with U.S. Soccer that has been severed for so many years because of the discrimination that we faced," said Morgan, a 32-year-old forward. "To finally get to this moment feels like we can almost sigh a breath of relief."

Players were able to set aside the legal distractions to continue on-field success.

"The additional hours and stress and outside pressures and discriminations we face, I mean sometimes you think why the hell was I born a female?" Morgan said. "And then sometimes you think how incredible is it to be able to fight for something that you actually believe in and stand alongside these women. ... There was something more than stepping on the field and wanting to be a starter or wanting to score goals or wanting to win or wanting to have the glory."

The $22 million will be split into individual amounts proposed by the players, subject to the District Court's approval.

IN BRIEF

MLB, union to meet 3rd day in row

News services

Locked out baseball players and team owners agreed to meet for a third day in a row Wednesday in an attempt to reach a deal that would salvage opening day on March 31.

Players made counteroffers on several topics during Tuesday's session. The talks on the 83rd day of the second-longest work stoppage in baseball history marked only the second time since the lockout began that bargaining on core economic issues has taken place on consecutive days.

The sides had met on consecutive days just once before, on Jan. 24 and 25.

MLB has told the union an agreement is needed by Monday for the season to start on time. Players haven't said whether they accept that as a deadline.

Negotiations were shifted this week from New York to Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Florida, the spring training home of the Marlins and Cardinals.

On Monday, MLB increased its offer of a bonus pool for prearbitration players by $5 million to $20 million, upped its proposal from three to four for teams participating in an amateur draft lottery and dropped its request for flexibility to decrease domestic minor league contracts along with a plan to limit optional assignments to five per player each season.

The union wants a $115 million bonus pool, eight teams in a draft lottery and a maximum four optional assignments.

The players and teams are far apart on luxury tax thresholds and rates. The teams have told the union they will not increase salary arbitration eligibility, will not decrease revenue sharing and will not add new methods for players to accrue service time, which players said are needed to prevent teams from holding players back to delay free agency.

NBA: G Jevon Carter plans to sign with the Bucks once he clears waivers, his agent told ESPN. The Nets waived Carter upon reaching an agreement with free agent G Goran Dragic on Monday. Carter, 26, averaged 3.6 points in 12 minutes per game this season for the Nets.

NFL: In an episode of HBO's "Real Sports" that aired Tuesday night, Brian Flores said he declined to sign a separation agreement presented by Dolphins owner Stephen Ross when he was dismissed as head coach of the team last month. "Just signing that separation agreement would have really silenced me," said Flores, who recently was hired by the Steelers as a defensive assistant. Flores filed a l

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday: vs. Marquette (at XL Center), 7 p.m., SNY

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday: at Georgetown, noon, CBS

UCONN
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

COVERAGE PRESENTED BY
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Valley

from Page 1

CD [Chris Dailey] every day and get to be around these young women who are all pretty amazing, it's been pretty amazing," Valley told The Courant recently. "Sometimes I wake up and have to pinch myself that I'm sitting on the bench in Gampel. It's pretty neat."

Embracing her role

Growing up, Valley was a star at Rice Memorial High School in Burlington, Vermont, helping lead her team to two straight undefeated seasons and state titles before joining forces with Diana Taurasi as part of Auriemma's class of 2000 recruiting haul.

UConn was basketball heaven for Valley. Not only was she surrounded by like-minded, competitive teammates, but she was part of a storied program that had produced the likes of Kerry Bascom, Jen Rizzotti, Kris Lamb, Nykesha Sales and Rebecca Lobo, many of whom would dip back into Storrs every now and then and practice with the current players. When confronted with Auriemma's high expectations and demands, Valley embraced every minute of it.

"I loved every part of the game," Valley said. "I don't ever remember being like 'god, are we going to run today?' I loved being around my teammates. I loved just the grind of it, getting up the shots every day and trying to prepare myself.

"To this day, usually the first thing I do when I get home is turn on a game while I'm working or doing something or talking to my former teammates about a game or hitting [current UConn sophomore] Paige [Bueckers] or one of the players up about a game that's on TV."

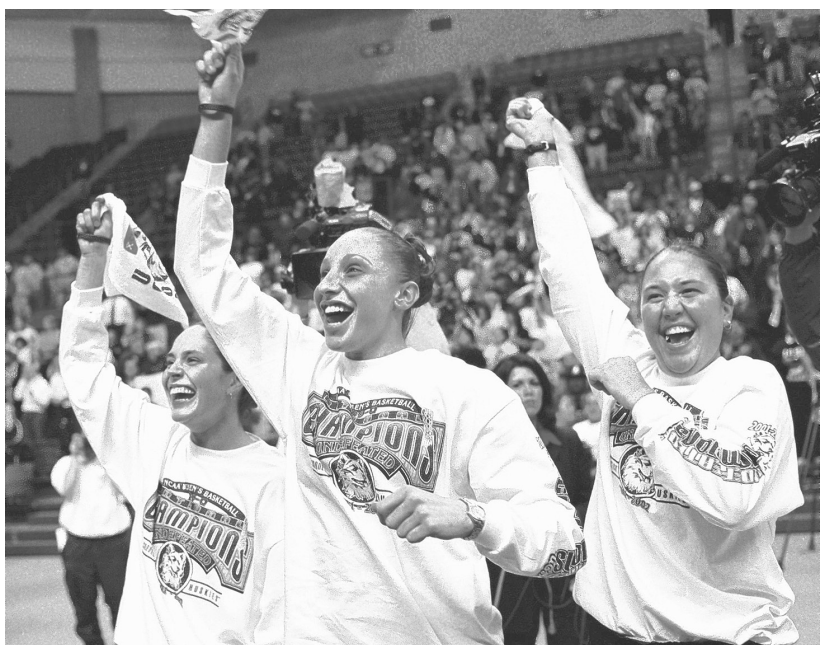
Injuries hindered much of Valley's career, but she emerged as the sort of player who'd do whatever the coaching staff asked of her to help the team, a mindset she says her father had instilled in both her and her sister Ashley (who also played at UConn from 2001-05) from a young age. She completed her UConn career appearing in 108 games where she totaled 282 points and 263 rebounds.

"I embraced what my role was and I was great at that," Valley said. "I didn't come into the University of Connecticut as a player saying, 'You know what, I'm going to be a great white team [practice team] player.' I never necessarily wanted that. But that's the role that whatever needed to be done was what I did."

Foray into coaching

Valley started to consider a career in coaching her sophomore year at UConn. By spending time in the offices of Dailey, Elliott and then-UConn assistant Tonya Cardoza, she learned the basics of what the role entails, such as how to do a scout (on tape back in the day) and what it's like to call recruits. Valley stayed aboard in Storrs as a student assistant in 2004-05 before getting her first real coaching job at an assistant at Holy Cross (2005-07) and later moving on to New Hampshire (2007-08).

When an opportunity arose to work at Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland, Valley was hesitant to take it. As a self-described homebody, the prospect of moving to a different region of the country scared her. But Dailey gave her some advice that changed the trajectory of her life.



Sue Bird, Diana Taurasi and Morgan Valley cheer back to the crowd at Gampel Pavillion after returning another national championship to UConn in 2002.
COURANT FILE

"CD was like, 'Look, if you want to coach, you're going to have to move,'" Valley recalled. "'You can't be scared.'

"I ended up taking a job at the University of Washington, so it's stuck with me for sure."

Valley was able to move back to the northeast thanks to an opportunity at UMass (2010-14). After deciding she wanted to return to the level she had played at, she broke into the Power 5 ranks with assistant coaching stints at Virginia Tech (2014-15), the University of Washington (2015-17) and Arizona (2017-19). Working under Mike Neighbors in Seattle, she helped guide the Washington Huskies to the program's first-ever Final Four and develop 2017 No. 1 WNBA Draft pick Kelsey Plum. Then with friend Adia Barnes at the helm in Arizona, Valley was part of the Wildcats' 2019 WNIT Championship run and helped lay the foundation for their 2021 NCAA Tournament finalist finish.

So much for Valley being a homebody.

"Sometimes it seems surreal that I actually lived [in Arizona]," Valley said.

It was easy to feel insecure when people pointed out how often she'd moved around, as if it were a problem. Rather, Valley embraced each opportunity to learn from different coaches and work her way up the ladder from the Patriot League to the Power 5.

"Football coaches, they go all over to try to get their goals or achieve their goals. Men's basketball coaches do the same thing," Valley said. "And I was like, no, it's not that big of a deal. I'm not leaving because of any other reason other than I think it's a better opportunity."

Valley earned her first head coaching job back east at Hartford in 2019. She went 4—37 over two years, with the Hawks affected by multiple COVID-19 shutdowns and injuries before canceling their 2020-21 season in early February.

Things were trending in the right direction at Hartford, Valley thought, and the team had emerged stronger than ever from the rough patch it had faced. And then she got the call from Auriemma. Valley couldn't turn down the opportunity to work alongside people she's looked up to since she was 17 with the same goals in mind that she had as a player two decades ago — winning national championships.

Returning to Storrs

If anything, Valley says that Auriemma, Dailey and Elliott have gotten better with age. And seeing how things operate elsewhere across the country only solidifies to her what makes Auriemma and Dailey so great.

"How dedicated they are to this program and to these young women and to the players that played before," Valley said. "You always knew that, but being back here, there's a special feeling and care and thoughtfulness that they have that is pretty unique."

Now, Valley gets to bring what she absorbed from all those coaching stops in seven leagues across the country, not to mention her own playing days in Storrs, in working with the current Huskies.

"I love Mo," UConn senior Christyn Williams said earlier this season. "She brings a different view to the game than Shae [Ralph] did. Like small details, she'll bring me over and talk about like angles and different stuff. It's just different."

"I love her too. I'm really happy," UConn freshman Azzi Fudd added. "I had a really good relationship with Coach Shea, so I wasn't sure how I would get to know or how I would bond with a new coach, but I really like Morgan and I really trust her and the things that she says. I'm glad to have her."

But Valley doesn't just want her players to learn about angles and basketball concepts from her. She wants them to learn about life.

"The thing I really do try to give them is if you do things as hard as you can every day — that's anything, that's on the floor, in the classroom, in a relationship, literally every aspect of your life — if you do it to the best of your ability every day and you can look yourself in the mirror and be like 'alright, I did my best today, let's see what I can do tomorrow,' I think you're successful. ... We're not perfect, but if we try to be great at what we do, good things happen."

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Bouknight issues apology for his courtside ejection

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

Former UConn men's basketball standout James Bouknight issued an apology on Twitter on Monday after he was ejected from his courtside seat during the second half of the Huskies' 72-61 victory over Xavier at Gampel Pavilion on Saturday.

According to multiple internet reports, Bouknight was ejected for standing on the court with his cellphone. He ended up sneaking back into the student section to watch the rest of the win.

"I allowed my emotions to get the better of me during a heated and competitive game and I regret part in the incident that took place with the officials," Bouknight said in the apology.

"I will remain a true and committed of our program and I intend to be back for more games in the future."

Bouknight also wished UConn coach Dan Hurley and the Huskies the best for the remainder of the season.

Bouknight played two seasons with the Huskies and averaged 18.7 points per game in his final year as a sophomore. He was drafted by the Charlotte Hornets with the No. 11 pick in the 2021 NBA draft.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

'I've done this before': Martelli leads Michigan for suspended Howard

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — In a hallway in the guts of Crisler Center, an anxious Michigan athletics employee walked Phil Martelli to the news conference.

More than once, she offered to help: Do you need me? Can I do anything? Martelli, his shoulders relaxed and demeanor confident, assured her he was OK. And with that he strode purposefully into the room and toward the podium.

"I know what I'm doing," he said Tuesday. "I've done this before."

The 67-year-old Martelli, having spent nearly four decades in big-time college basketball, will fill in for Michigan head coach Juwan Howard for the rest of the regular season. Howard was suspended five games and fined $40,000 by the Big Ten Conference after hitting a Wisconsin assistant coach in the head during the handshake line after a loss Sunday.

Martelli aims to bolster the Wolverines' chances at an NCAA Tournament bid after the team started the season with high expectations for March. His first game will be Wednesday when Michigan (14-11, 8-7) hosts Rutgers.

Now in his third season as the Michigan associate head coach following 24 years of guiding Saint Joseph's and 10 more there as an assistant, Martelli is no stranger to leading a team through late-season pressure. He maintained his approach will be to continue on the path created by Howard.

"What we have in place is the way we're going to play," Martelli said. "I don't have the offensive mind that (Howard) has. I don't have that in my DNA."

Assistant coach Howard Eisley will serve as offensive coordinator in Howard's absence, Martelli said. Eisley will call sets from a "really effective and massive" playbook that he and Howard have put together.

Howard, a former Michigan standout and NBA All-Star who is the reigning Associated Press men's coach of the year, became upset after Wisconsin coach Greg Gard called a timeout with 15 seconds left and his team leading by 15.

The confrontation began when Gard grabbed Howard by the arm in an attempt to explain why he called the timeout. Howard yelled and put his right index finger in Gard's face as the two began to argue.

After the two coaches were separated, Howard swung his right hand and struck Wisconsin assistant Joe Krabbenhoft on the left side of the head with an open hand. Players on both sides quickly got involved and a punch-filled melee ensued.

UConn

from Page 1

her most extended playing time. But DeBerry has scored twice in each of the last couple of games.

The basket with 5:59 left vs. Georgetown was an indication that the Huskies, now nearly completely healthy, are back to playing to their identity of getting everyone involved, whatever the score, as the regular season winds down.

"I've never understood not getting touches for kids who don't play a lot," Auriemma said. "You'd be surprised how many times you put somebody in the game, the other team's got their subs in, you've got your subs in with a couple of starters, and those guys can't wait to take even more shots after they've already played 30 minutes. Drives me crazy."

Mühl, who has 32 assists in the last seven games, has done a lot of the little things to help UConn stay afloat through all the injuries and illnesses this season, and now the Huskies can clinch the Big East regular-season title with a win over Marquette.

Here's what you need to know about the matchup.

The basics

Site: XL Center, Hartford
Time: 7 p.m. ET
Series: UConn leads, 13-0
Last meeting: UConn won 72-58 on Feb. 13 in Milwaukee.
TV: SNY (Allen Bestwick, Meg Culmo, Maria Marino)
Radio: UConn Sports Network (Bob Joyce, Debbie Fiske)

Marquette (18-8, 11-6) probable starters, sixth player

Liza Karlen, F, 6-2, So.; Lauren Van Kleunen, F, 6-2, Gr.; Chloe Marotta, F, 6-1, Sr.; Karissa McLaughlin, G, 5-7, Gr.; Jordan King, G, 5-11, Jr.; Antwainette Walker, G, 5-11, Jr.

UConn (19-5, 13-1) probable starters, sixth player

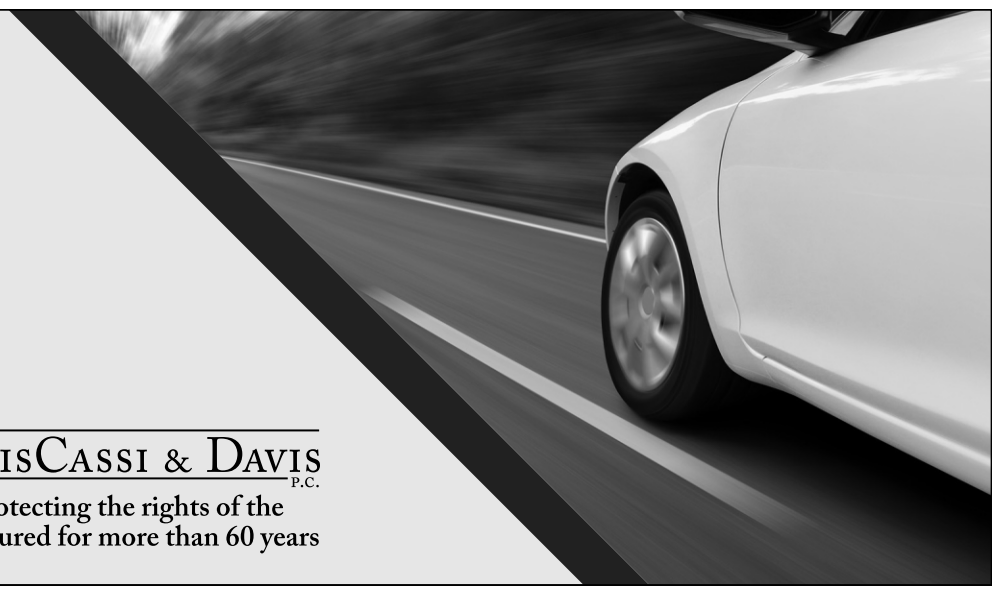
Nika Mühl, G, 5-10, So.; Aaliyah Edwards, F, 6-3, So.; Christyn Williams, G, 5-11, Sr.; Azzi Fudd, G, 5-11, Fr.; Caroline Ducharme,G, 6-2, Fr.; Olivia Nelson-Ododo, F, 6-5, Sr.

The matchup

UConn offense: The Huskies beat Marquette two weeks ago with Ducharme and Nelson-Ododo unavailable. They lived at the perimeter, going 10-for-20 on 3-point shots. Now the Huskies have those two back and will have more options to attack the rim and more opportunities to experiment. In the midst of a tight late-season schedule, the ability to play an extended rotation will help the Huskies in this game and beyond.
UConn defense: UConn made 21 steals, prompting 30 turnovers against Georgetown last game and scored 44 points off those turnovers. Look for the Huskies to continue to apply ball pressure, now that they have the depth to do so, and play a more physical game. The Huskies did a good job on Van Kleunen (3-for-10) last time.
Marquette offense: Van Kleunen (13.3) and McLaughlin (12.4) and King (11.7) score in double figures, with Karlen at 9.4, so the Golden Eagles have balance. They average 65.4 points, and have 76 more assists than turnovers.McLaughlin (43 percent) is their most efficient 3-point shooter.
Marquette defense: The Golden Eagles hold opponents to 56.9 points per game, 37.7 percent from the floor and 26.7 on 3s — which made UConn's perimeter shooting on Feb. 13 an outlier. Marquette outrebounds opponents 41.2 to 32.
UConn keys: Ball security. The Huskies turned it over 21 times vs. Georgetown, the one thing that had Auriemma grumbling a bit after the game.
Players to watch: Edwards, who last season played her best basketball late, has been more of a factor lately, especially on the boards. Karlen scored 15, going 7-for-10 against the shorthanded UConn team last time.
About Marquette's coach: Megan Duffy, 37, in her third season at Marquette was Big East coach of the year in 2019-20. A former WNBA player with the Minnesota Lynx and New York Liberty, she coached Miami (Ohio) two seasons before coming to Marquette.
Famous alumni: Late comedian Chris Farley, who commuted to classes from a van down by the river, and Dwyane Wade of NBA fame.

Did you know?

National data shows that even a 10-mph speed increase ups the risk of a crash by 9.1 percent.



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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Mickelson 'sorry,' needs time away



Phil Mickelson apologized Tuesday for comments about the Saudis and a proposed super league. Mickelson also said in a statement he has felt pressure and stress affecting him at a deeper level over the last 10 years and he needs time away. However, he didn't say if he would be taking a break from golf. KPMG became the first of Mickelson's corporate sponsors to announce an end to their partnership. Most damaging about Mickelson's remarks to golf writer Alan Shipnuck was referring to the Saudis financing a proposed breakaway league as "scary mother (expletive)s." He also told Shipnuck that it was worth getting in bed with the Saudis, despite their history of human rights abuses, if it meant a chance to change the PGA Tour. "We know they killed (Washington Post columnist Jamal) Khashoggi and have a horrible record on human rights. They execute people for being gay," he said. "Knowing all of this, why would I even consider it? Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates." Mickelson, 51, said he was "deeply sorry" for his comments.

Rodgers: No decision yet on '22 plans



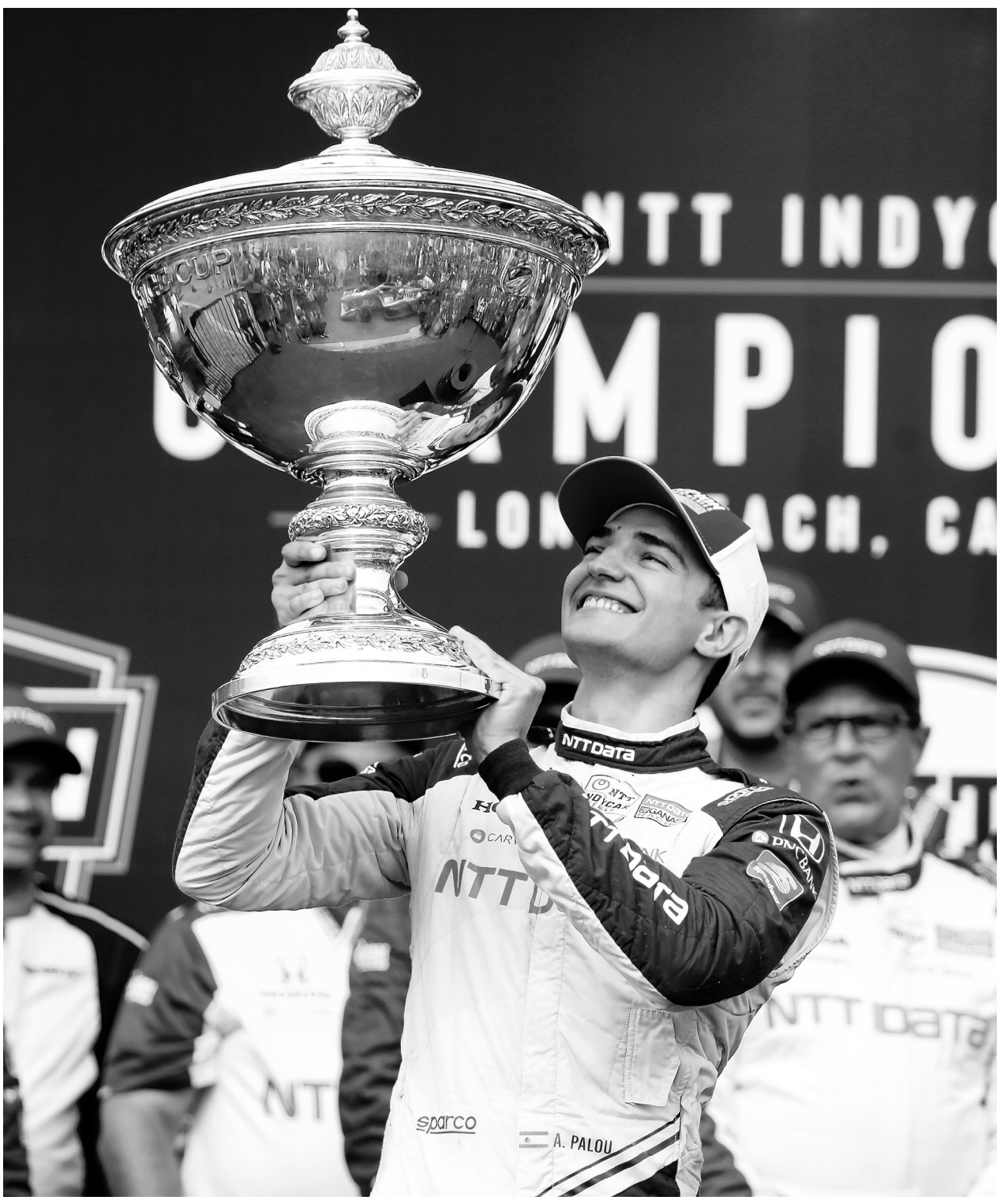
Aaron Rodgers says he's still making up his mind about whether he wants to return to the Packers next season. "There will be no news today," the four-time MVP quarterback said Tuesday on "The Pat McAfee Show" on YouTube and SiriusXM. "No decision on my future." Rodgers said after the season that he would try to make a decision about his 2022 plans in relatively short order rather than dragging out the process. The reigning MVP said at the time that he hadn't ruled out any option, including returning to the Packers for an 18th season, retiring or requesting a trade. When Rodgers sent out an Instagram post Monday thanking current and former teammates and coaches among others, it raised speculation that an announcement could be forthcoming. Rodgers said Tuesday he just wanted to show some gratitude to people who have helped him over the last year. The 38-year-old won his second straight MVP award less than two weeks ago. The Packers went 13-4 in the regular season and won a third straight NFC North title before losing 13-10 at home to the 49ers in the divisional playoffs.

UK wants UCL final out of Russia



The British government led calls for the Champions League final to be taken out of Russia on Tuesday to punish its deepening intervention in Ukraine, prompting UEFA to say it would reconsider hosting rights. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson highlighted concerns about the showpiece men's game being played in St. Petersburg on May 28 as he urged Russian President Vladimir Putin not to conduct a full invasion of Ukraine. "It's absolutely vital in this critical moment that President Putin understands that what he is doing is going to be a disaster for Russia," Johnson, above, told the House of Commons. "He is going to end up with ... a Russia that is more isolated, a Russia that has pariah status, no chance of holding football tournaments in a Russia that invades sovereign countries." In response, for the first time acknowledged a risk to Russia staging the event. "UEFA is constantly and closely monitoring the situation," the Champions League organizer said in a statement, "and any decision would be made in due course if necessary.

—Associated Press



Alex Palou will begin his IndyCar championship defense Sunday with the season opener in St. Petersburg, Florida. **AP FILE**

AUTO RACING INDYCAR SEASON PREVIEW

No end to twists, turns

Despite IndyCar's rise, lure of F1 looms large as usual

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The stars of IndyCar crowded into Indianapolis Motor Speedway to celebrate an upcoming season of opportunity for America's open-wheel racing series to further cement its legitimacy and expand its popularity.

The party to mark the 100-day countdown to the Indianapolis 500 went off course amid word Michael Andretti was again trying to acquire a Formula One team. Mario Andretti, the 1978 F1 world champion, wrote that Andretti Global had applied for an expansion team to launch in 2024 — news so very indicative of IndyCar's pecular dilemma.

IndyCar has weathered the pandemic under Roger Penske, who had the misfortune of purchasing the series and IMS about two months before the global shutdown. Despite the challenges, Penske enters his third season at the top with all critical metrics trending upward.

IndyCar's growth can be attributed to a crop of young stars — a Dutch driver, a Mexican, a Spaniard and 21-year-old Colton Herta of California — who won races and new fans. IndyCar's growth has made it a desirable landing spot for top drivers around the globe, but the bright young lights of IndyCar's resurgence all happened to grow up dreaming of F1.

If Michael Andretti ever does get an F1 team, he's almost certain to take Herta from Andretti Autosport with him as the next American driver. Herta was a central figure in last year's failed Andretti talks to purchase Sauber, and as he prepares this Sunday to defend his St. Petersburg victory from a year ago, he's again in the headlines for the wrong series.

"It's the same as how I was with the Sauber stuff, it doesn't really make too much of a difference to me," Herta told The AP on Tuesday. "My main goal this year is IndyCar and that's what I'm focused on. If something were to happen with Formula One, I'd have to take a good look at it. But when I'm contracted to drive something, that what I put 95% of my energy into."

Pato O'Ward, a 22-year-old Mexican, races for McLaren in IndyCar and seems to already have one foot out the door. He tested the F1 car for McLaren in December and could be the team's reserve driver at select 2022 races.

Herta and O'Ward, teammates in January on a class victory at the Rolex 24 at Daytona, have established themselves as motorsports' new guard. Losing them to F1, hangs over an IndyCar community banking on all the new faces to carry the series forward.

"I want people to enjoy me in IndyCar, I want them to know what IndyCar has to offer," O'Ward said of the line he must toe. "Whenever I go to Formula One, or if I ever go to Formula One, just for now enjoy me in IndyCar."

For all the attention on a pair of drivers who both fell short of the IndyCar championship, they're still scraping together the points the FIA requires to get an F1 drivers license. Of all the emerging stars, the one to finally dethrone six-time IndyCar champion Scott Dixon last season was Alex Palou — Dixon's Chip Ganassi Racing teammate.

Palou was new to Ganassi last season but in his second year of IndyCar, and the 24-year-old Spaniard has a remarkable steeliness and relentless thirst to understand every element of his craft. He won his debut race with Ganassi last season, finished second to Helio Castroneves in the Indy 500 and rebounded from consecutive DNF's to win at Portland and reclaim the championship lead for good with two races remaining.

"We didn't surprise people last year, but they didn't really talk about us either," Palou said. "We need to be consistently part of the conversation so that people understand clearly this team is for real."

Purse strings

Penske said he's increasing by 30% the leaders circle guaranteed payout by IndyCar to the top 22 teams in the standings, and expected the Indy 500 purse to be "higher than it was before." The purse for last year's race was just under $9 million.

The series is opening a new three-year deal with NBC Sports, which pulled in its highest IndyCar ratings last season since acquiring the property in 2019. A series-high 13 races this year will be on the flagship broadcast network rather than cable. IndyCar says it has deals in more than 200 countries and territories.

The search for a third manufacturer is ongoing and Penske said talks are furthest along with Toyota after IndyCar's courtship of Ferrari fizzled.

AUTO RACING FORMULA ONE

New cars set for preseason testing

By Tales Azzoni | Associated Press

Formula One will get a glimpse of what the season may look like when its new generation of cars hits the track in a test session in Barcelona on Wednesday.

It will be the first preseason session following one of the biggest regulation changes in the series, and the first time drivers and teams will get a real feel about what to expect in 2022.

F1 implemented major changes to improve racing and try to make the series more competitive, with new aerodynamic and tire requirements that will make the cars look and feel different from previous years. They will be sporting new rear and front wings, as well as bigger wheels, to allow drivers to race closer together and hopefully increase the number of overtakes.

The older cars used to lose downforce — and their ability to go through turns faster — the closer they got to the cars ahead. The changes were aimed at reducing that loss of downforce and give the trailing drivers more chances of overtaking.

"Every decision we have made has been towards not dumbing down the sport but making it more achievable for more of the teams and to get a closer competition going on for the future while still leaving it a meritocracy so the best teams still win," F1 motorsport boss Ross Brawn said.

The last time F1 underwent drastic rule changes was in 2014, when the turbo-hybrid era started. In 2017, F1 had already introduced design changes that made cars wider and faster to try to make the series more exciting, though that didn't keep Mercedes and Red Bull from dominating.

"I honestly don't think the regulations will change the general order of things dramatically," Brawn said. "It will bring it a lot closer and I think we'll see some of what were the mid-field teams challenging. I think we'll have a bigger group of competitive teams."

F1 is coming off one of its greatest seasons as Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton battled for the title to the end, with Verstappen winning with Red Bull on the last lap of the last race to end Mercedes' seven-year dominance.

"I'm optimistic about the coming season," Brawn said. "The good teams will always do a good job. They've got the expertise and the experience. Although I'd love to see it, I don't think we're going to see teams further back all of a sudden dominating this year."

Because of the regulation changes, preseason testing was divided in two parts, with the first sessions taking place from Wednesday through Friday in Barcelona and three more scheduled for March 10-12 in Bahrain ahead of the season-opener on March 20.

"Now with the new regulations, you have to get used to the car. It's not like you just jump in and it's an upgrade from last year," Verstappen said. "A lot is unknown about the car ... I'm very curious to see how the car is behaving on track."

Cars will also use a higher ratio of sustainable fuel, and new safety features. There will be a lower budget cap for teams, and adjustments have been made to the race weekends to allow drivers and teams to arrive later to tracks.

Both practices on Fridays will take place in the afternoon so media availability can be held in the morning instead of on Thursdays. There will be some changes to the sprint race weekends as well, with more points awarded through to the eighth-place finisher and the top qualifier on Friday being attributed with the pole position for statistical purposes and not only to start up front in the Saturday sprint race.

It will be the longest F1 season yet with 23 races, with the Miami Grand Prix debuting in May on a street course. Races in Japan, Canada, Australia and Singapore have returned after dropping out because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Michael Masi was dropped as race director in fallout from the controversial ending to the final race last season. Niels Wittich and Eduardo Freitas will act alternately as race director with the assistance of permanent senior advisor Herbie Blash.

George Russell was promoted to Mercedes to replace Valtteri Bottas, who will be with Alfa Romeo alongside Zhou Guanyu, the first Chinese driver in F1 history. Russell's place at Williams has gone go to Alex Albon, while two-time world champion Fernando Alonso is back with Alpine at age 40 — the oldest driver on the grid following the retirement of Kimi Raikkonen.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen, center, celebrates after winning his first Formula One title in December. **AP FILE**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY — SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Clouds giving way to a partly to mostly sunny sky. Rather breezy and unseasonably mild. HIGH 67° LOW 23°

THURSDAY — SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Partly sunny and chilly. HIGH 37° LOW 25°

FRIDAY — SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Snow, sleet and freezing rain is likely. A change to rain is possible along the shoreline. Breezy. HIGH 33° LOW 15°

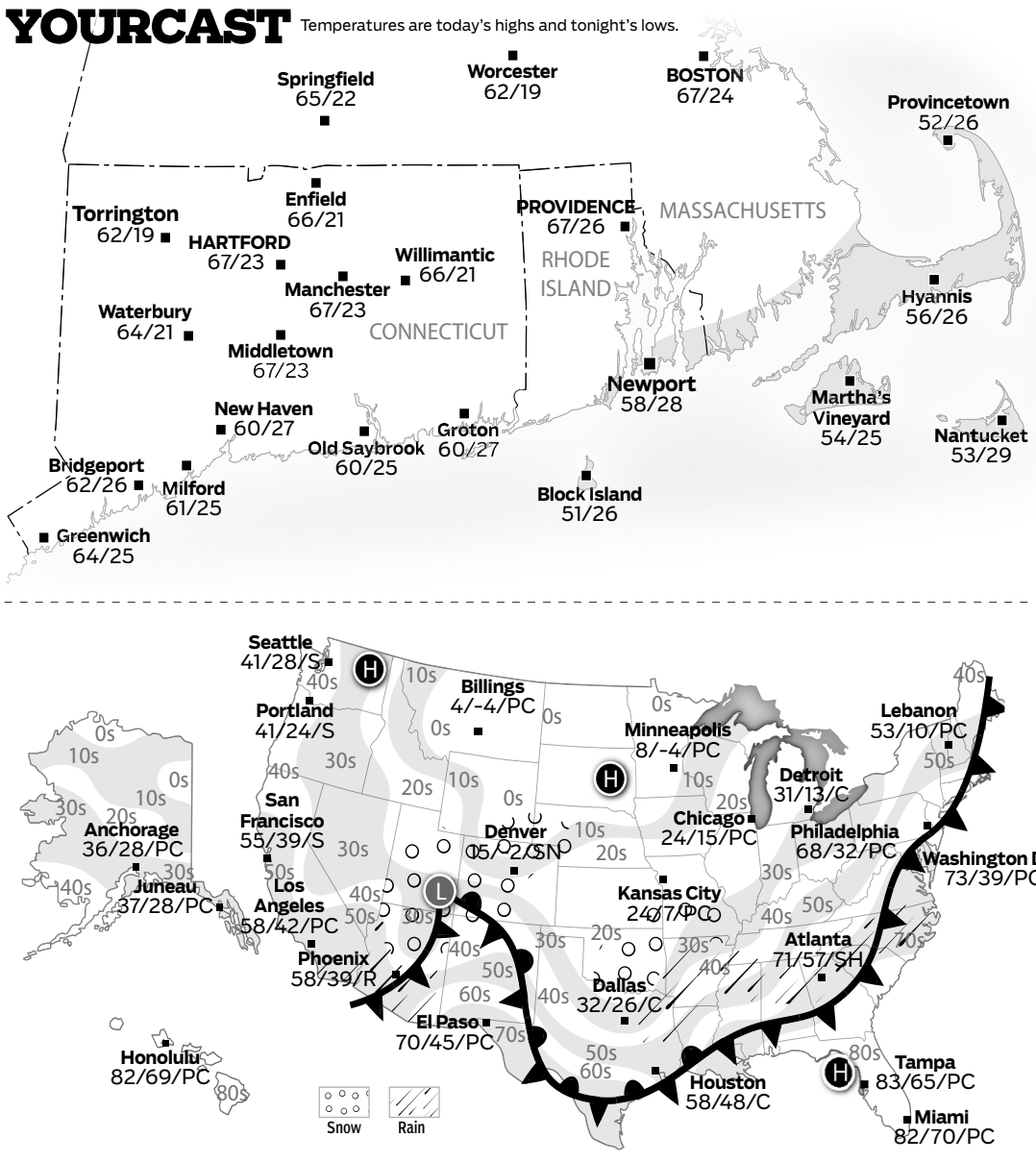
SATURDAY — SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Sunshine, some fair weather clouds, breezy and very chilly. HIGH 32° LOW 15°

SUNDAY — SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Partly sunny, breezy and seasonable. HIGH 39° LOW 17°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
For the latest weather news throughout your day.
courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

Morning clouds will be giving way to mostly sunny skies on Wednesday along with unseasonably mild temperatures with highs in the 60s, likely statewide. A 70-degree reading is possible. The mildest temperature so far in 2022 was 62 degrees in the Greater Hartford area and it was 64 degrees in Danbury. Both high temperatures occurred on February 17th. Bridgeport's highest temperature was a record 60 degrees set on February 12th. The record high temperature for today is 68 degrees set in 1990 in the Greater Hartford area, while Bridgeport's record was 60 set in 2012.

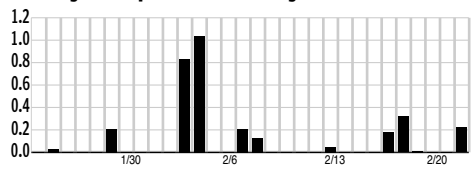
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.22	0.12
Month to date	2.99	2.40
Total this year	4.82	5.68
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.5
Total this year	21.6	38.4

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches

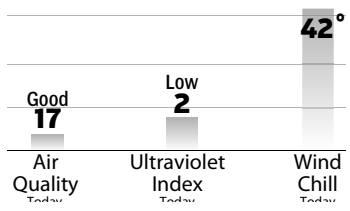


Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	1:57 a.m.	8:56 a.m.	37°
	2:21 p.m.	8:58 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	3:08 a.m.	9:49 a.m.	37°
	3:32 p.m.	9:51 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	5:51 a.m.	12:38 a.m.	
	6:15 p.m.	1:35 p.m.	
Madison	3:24 a.m.	9:50 a.m.	37°
	4:01 p.m.	10:03 p.m.	
New Haven	3:44 a.m.	10:14 a.m.	38°
	4:21 p.m.	10:27 p.m.	
Stamford	3:48 a.m.	10:28 a.m.	38°
	4:25 p.m.	10:41 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 5.84 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
	Clearing	MCloudy	MCloudy
Wind	SW, 10-15	SW, 15-20	SW, 15-20
Seas	2-3 ft.	2-4 ft.	5-8 ft.

Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:35 a.m.	6:34 a.m.
Sunset	5:33 p.m.	5:34 p.m.
Moonrise	12:23 a.m.	1:38 a.m.
Moonset	10:12 a.m.	10:53 a.m.

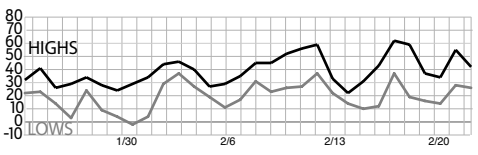
Moon Phase

Last	New	First	Full
Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 18

Temperature	High	Low
Tuesday	42 at 3:12 p.m	26 at 6:47 a.m
Normal for date	40	22
Record for date	69 in 1997	-2 in 1916
A year ago	38	15
Range this year	62	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Feb 22	3776	4142	3910

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.38 at 12 a.m.	30.06 at 6 p.m.
Dew point	37° at 6 p.m.	23° at 1 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND			
Bangor	56	7	PC
Burlington	46	7	PC
Caribou	37	1	C
Concord	59	17	PC
Montpelier	46	3	C
Mt. Wash.	28	-8	C
Portland	59	17	PC
Woods Hole	58	26	PC
NATION			
Albany	53	18	PC
Albuquerque	55	29	PC
Atlantic City	67	30	PC
Baltimore	70	31	PC
Bismarck	5	-13	PC
Boise	31	15	S
Buffalo	30	12	C
Charleston	82	59	PC
Cincinnati	41	25	PC
Cleveland	31	15	PC
Indianapolis	34	22	PC
Jacksonville	82	57	PC
Las Vegas	50	34	C
Miami Beach	78	73	PC
Milwaukee	21	14	PC
Nashville	48	38	PC
New Orleans	79	63	C
New York	68	31	PC
Okla. City	23	18	C
Omaha	16	3	C
Orlando	84	61	PC
Pittsburgh	38	17	C
Raleigh	72	49	SH
St. Louis	32	21	PC
Salt Lake City	28	16	SF
San Antonio	48	37	C
San Diego	56	45	SH
San Juan	82	73	SH
Tucson	57	34	C
WORLD			
Amsterdam	50	39	S
Athens	59	45	SH
Bangkok	90	68	S
Barbados	83	70	S
Beijing	43	21	S
Beirut	74	60	PC
Berlin	50	32	C
Bermuda	70	63	PC
Budapest	53	28	PC
Buenos Aires	84	70	C
Cairo	75	52	S
Cancun	84	75	PC
Dubai	79	66	S
Dublin	52	36	SH
Edinburgh	47	31	SH
Helsinki	37	34	PC
Hong Kong	57	48	SH
Istanbul	54	41	R
Jerusalem	66	52	PC
Johannesburg	82	59	T
Kingston	88	72	PC
Lisbon	68	52	C
London	52	43	SH
Madrid	68	45	PC
Mexico City	85	69	PC
Milan	61	36	SH
Montreal	34	1	SH
Moscow	37	25	R
Nassau	82	68	PC
New Delhi	79	57	PC
Paris	54	41	C
Prague	48	30	PC
Rio de Janeiro	91	73	R
Rome	64	39	S
Seoul	32	18	S
Singapore	91	75	T
Stockholm	36	31	C
Sydney	82	70	SH
Tel Aviv	76	54	PC
Tokyo	48	32	S
Toronto	28	9	SF
Vancouver	34	23	S
Warsaw	39	30	SH

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center

MONDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Others
EAST LYME 66, XAVIER 54
EAST LYME (12-8): Rowan Mundell 1-0-3, Brendan Osso 1-0-3, Jalen Hannans 1-0-3, Riley Walsh 7-10-26, Will Anglin 3-0-7, Owen Elmer 2-3-7, Gavin O'Brien 6-5-17. Totals 21-18-66.
XAVIER (12-8): Colby Ciampi 1-1-3, Vik Vakati 4-0-12, Anthony Parker 8-3-23, Aidan Driscoll 5-3-14, Mark Schoonmaker 1-0-2. Totals 19-7-54.

EL	**14**	**14**	**19**	**19**	**— 66**
X	**9**	**15**	**15**	**15**	**— 54**

BOYS HOCKEY

Others
BBD 5, NORTHEASTERN 1

B	**1**	**2**	**2**	**—**	**5**
N	**0**	**0**	**1**	**—**	**1**

Goals: B—Liam Gelfand (2), Kenny Granacker (2), Dmitry Yates **N**—Tyler Szegda.
Saves: B—Louie Alfidi, 35 **N**—Bauer Cordeiro Larkin, 32. Rec.: **B**—10-7 **N**—4-14.

TUESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-North
NEW BRITAIN 59, ROCKY HILL 28
WINDSOR 91, BLOOMFIELD 73

CCC-South
BERLIN 43, PLAINVILLE 39 (OT)
BERLIN (14-5): Marino Fanelli 2-0-4, Michael Ciarcia 3-0-9, Toby Lavender 1-0-2, River Eberhardt 2-0-5, Ryan Steck 4-5-13, John Damore 0-1-1, Jon Morales 0-2-2. Totals 14-11-43.
PLAINVILLE (6-14): Artem Mojica 3-2-9, Brennan Staubley 1-0-2, M.J. Bakaysa 1-0-3, Cam LaMothe 5-0-10, Joe Vasquez 6-3-15. Totals 16-5-39.

B	**10**	**9**	**6**	**8**	**10**	**—**	**43**
P	**13**	**6**	**11**	**3**	**6**	**—**	**39**

PLATT 61, MALONEY 54
MIDDLETOWN 66, LEWIS MILLS 58
CCC-West
FARMINGTON 43, AVON 42
AVON (12-8): Jadd Eldan 2-0-4, Isaac Aguilar 10-0-25, Tabor Engle 1-0-3, Tyler Bronkenshire 3-0-7, Aiden Srb 1-0-3. Totals 17-0-42.
FARMINGTON (15-5): Jordan Anthony 5-2-12, Jahkai Veal 3-0-6, Nico Augustino 1-0-3, Chad Rizzo 1-0-2, Jared Young 3-2-8, Nick Duncan 4-1-9, EJ Sanchez 1-0-3. Totals 18-5-43.

A	**12**	**7**	**21**	**2**	**—**	**42**
F	**7**	**11**	**10**	**15**	**—**	**43**

CONARD 71, HALL 56
NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 67, SOUTHINGTON 24

CCC-East
MANCHESTER 73, EAST HARTFORD 63
EAST HARTFORD (10-10): Chris Lomax 6-0-14, Favour Okeke 2-6-10, Elijah Serrano 9-2-23, Dom Laduca 4-2-12, Zander Robinson 1-2-4, David Pardo 1-0-2, Justin Victorin 0-1-1. Totals 23-13-66.
MANCHESTER (13-6): Laquonne Thames 0-1-1, Troy Butler 13-5-35, Damian Sanchez 3-3-10, Jared Lindstrom 5-0-10, Lucas Ryan 3-0-6, Taber Marineau 1-0-2, Jayden Cersosimo 4-3-12. Totals 29-12-76.

EH	**18**	**8**	**21**	**19**	**—**	**66**
M	**19**	**17**	**15**	**25**	**—**	**76**

Of **note:** Ryan had 12rebounds, Lindstrom had 10rebounds and Cersosimo had 5steals.
E.O. SMITH 53, TOLLAND 42
RHAM 61, ENFIELD 56

CTC
ELLIS TECH 50, VINAL TECH 49
WINDHAM TECH 91, CHENEY TECH 76

CRAL
AEROSPACE 76, MLC 47
AEROSPACE (8-11): Rayquanne Bogle 3-2-8, Alex Small 2-4, Kooper Ashmore 5-2-16, Kevin Clarke 10-6-30, Ramsez Batchelor 1-0-2, Carl Johnson 1-0-2, M. Fournier 1-1-4, J. Joiner 4-2-10. Totals 23-13-76.
MLC (3-18): Zamar Gibson 5-2-12, Alex Grice 9-5-23, Ronald Baapogmah 1-1-3, Trey Moses 1-1-5, Martvin Luzon 2-0-4. Totals 19-8-47.

A	**19**	**14**	**21**	**22**	**—**	**76**
M	**12**	**10**	**11**	**14**	**—**	**47**

CAPITAL PREP 91, WEAVER 71

Others
EAST HAMPTON 67, SMSA 63
EAST HAMPTON (12-7): Brady Lynch 6-1-13, Drew DiStefano 1-7-10, Miller Koziel 1-0-2, Jye Lynch 9-0-18, Jack Blakey 3-1-7, Nate Ireland 8-1-17. Totals 28-10-67.
SMSA (16-4): King Shaw 8-2-18, Nizayiah Bogar 3-0-7, Abijah Miller 4-0-8, Kemani Thompson 6-2-15, Daniel Hernandez 3-7-13, Tomal Tillman 1-0-2. Totals 25-11-63.

EH	**14**	**14**	**20**	**19**	**—**	**67**
S	**14**	**15**	**20**	**14**	**—**	**63**

Note: Miller and Hernandez each had 7 rebounds.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Conference Tournaments
CCC—Semifinals (Enfield HS)
EAST HARTFORD 37, WINDSOR 31
WINDSOR (14-8): Mikaela Williams 4-0-8, Janet Woodard 2-0-6, Jordyn Bay-Kent 2-2-6, Ayanna Frank 5-1-11. Totals 11-3-31.
EAST HARTFORD (21-2): Kayla Henry 1-3-5, Victoria Silva-Soto 2-0-4, Shailyn Pinkney 6-3-17, Nia Edens 1-3-6, Comfort Boateng 1-3-5. Totals 11-12-37.

W	**5**	**8**	**8**	**10**	**—**	**31**
EH	**4**	**5**	**11**	**17**	**—**	**37**

NCCC—Semifinals
GRANBY 36, BOLTON 23
BOLTON (16-6): Emma Diehl 1-1-3, Niya Islam 5-0-10, Julia Zimmerman 1-4-6, Emily DeNunzio 1-0-2, Riley Graves 1-0-2. Totals 9-5-23.
GRANBY (18-4): Femke Jansen 2-1-6, Savannah Rijkse 3-6-12, Kayla Davis 1-2-4, Alyssa Bordonaro 5-2-12, Layla Bolduc 1-0-2. Totals 12-11-36.

B	**8**	**5**	**4**	**6**	**—**	**23**
G	**13**	**6**	**6**	**11**	**—**	**36**

Note: Diehl and M. Graves each had 9rebounds.
CANTON 45, SOMERS 40
Shoreline—Semifinal
VALLEY REGIONAL 50, CROMWELL 40
CROMWELL (17-5): Adela Cecunjanin 7-4-17, Jessica Grodzicki 1-0-5, Nevaeh Clark 2-0-5, Cameryn Hickey 5-0-13. Totals 15-3-40.
VALLEY REGIONAL (19-3): Ava Cunningham 1-3-5, Abby Bradbury 6-4-19, Liz Allen 2-0-4, Olivia Cunningham 8-2-18, Lily Grow 2-0-4. Totals 19-9-50.

C	**7**	**10**	**15**	**8**	**—**	**40**
VR	**6**	**9**	**17**	**18**	**—**	**50**

CRAL—Semifinals
AEROSPACE 44, WEAVER 42
AEROSPACE (14-8): Julie McLean 3-0-6, Faith Mitchell 4-2-10, Ashanti McLean 6-9-21, Kate Bernier 1-0-2, Justice Kitchens 0-1-1, Tara Martindale 2-0-4. Totals 16-12-44.
WEAVER (14-7): Jasmine Cardona 2-0-4, Zariah Thomas 1-0-3, Takyra Allerdyce 1-0-2, Nicole Linares 6-1-16, Daisy Garriga 1-0-2, Kellisa Facey 4-0-8, Enaijha Gilbert 3-0-7. Totals 16-1-42.

A	**6**	**4**	**17**	**17**	**—**	**44**
W	**14**	**3**	**15**	**12**	**—**	**42**

Note: A. McLean hit the game-winning basket at the buzzer.
PARISH HILL 57, CAPITAL PREP 34
CAPITAL PREP (8-11): Saneia Wallford 9-3-21, Sienna Cook 5-3-13, Ashlyn Gordon 0-0-0, Tanasia Gaston 0-0-0, Emerald Michell 0-0-0. Totals 14-6-34.
PARISH HILL (14-7): Kristie Zator 15-4-34, Lexi Smardon 4-0-8, Grace Quinn 3-0-8, Kaelyn Pearl 2-0-4, Brooke Provost-Spickler 1-0-2, Charley Bennett 0-1-1. Totals 25-5-57.

CP	**6**	**4**	**10**	**14**	**—**	**34**
PH	**10**	**16**	**20**	**11**	**—**	**57**

Note: Zator had a double-double with 21 rebounds and Smardon had 12rebounds, 5 steals.
ECC—Finals (Mohegan Sun Arena)

Division 2
WINDHAM 38, PLAINFIELD 33
NVL—Semifinal (Holy Cross HS)
SEYMOUR 55, ST. PAUL 52
ST. PAUL (16-5): Haileigh Orzel 1-0-3, Audrey Tice 3-3-9, Izzy Leggett 4-1-10, Nadia Reimer 4-1-11, Zoey Rubins 4-1-11, Emily Ronalter 1-0-2, Kelsea Tefoe 2-0-4, Alexis Tierpack 1-0-2. Totals 20-6-52.
SEYMOUR (19-3): Kenzie Sirowich 9-10-29, Jillian Keough 1-0-2, Jackie Okula 3-0-6, Lauren Golebieski 4-2-12, Skylar Barton 3-0-6. Totals 20-12-55.

SP	**16**	**10**	**13**	**13**	**—**	**52**
S	**17**	**13**	**11**	**14**	**—**	**55**

Note: Rubins had 7assists and Reimer had 5 blocks.

BOYS HOCKEY

Others
WESTHILL/STAMFORD 4, HALL 1

WS	**0**	**0**	**1**	**—**	**1**
H	**0**	**2**	**2**	**—**	**4**

Goals: WS—Jordan Grabine, Thomas Waterbury, Conner Morrell, Anthony Corelli; **H**—Matt Ganey. **Saves: WS**—Eric Osterhus, 30; **WH**—Aiden Mallett, 55. Rec.: **WS**—11-6; **H**—7-11.

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC
HALL 91, CONARD 86
Note: Carter Morton (50/100free), Carson Raisner (100fly/100back) and Cyrus Xu (200IM/500 free) were double winners for Hall. Raisner set a new Hall school record in the 100back with a 53.21.
WINDSOR 86, EAST CATHOLIC 74
WETHERSFIELD 94, NEWINGTON 89

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-**North:** Hartford Public at Bulkeley, 6p.m.
Shoreline: East Hampton at Valley Regional, 7 p.m.; Cromwell at Westbrook, 7p.m.; Coginchaug at Hale-Ray, 7p.m.
CTC: Vinal Tech at Cheney Tech, 6:45p.m.
Others: Capital Prep at Amistad, 4:30p.m.; Haddam-Killingworth at St. Paul, 7p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Conference Tournaments
Shoreline—Semifinal: North Branford at East Hampton, 6p.m.
CTC—Semifinals: Goodwin Tech at Windham Tech, 5p.m.
SCC—Final (Law HS): Hand vs. SHA, 7p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-**North:** Glastonbury at Northwest Catholic, 7:50p.m.
CCC-**South:** Southington co-op at Enfield co-op, 3:50p.m.
CCC-**Inter:** Rocky Hill co-op at South Windsor, 3:10p.m.; E.O. Smith/Tolland at Conard, 7:20 p.m.; Wethersfield at Farmington Valley, 8p.m.
NHC: SGWL at Woodstock Academy, 7p.m.
SCC/**SWC:** Sheehan at Branford, 3:50p.m.; Xavier at Notre Dame-Fairfield, 8:30p.m.
Others: Simsbury at St. Joseph, 6:30p.m.; East Haven co-op at Eastern CT, 7:40p.m.; Northeastern at Masuk, 8p.m.; Trumbull at Cheshire, 8p.m.; Lyman Hall at McMahon/Norwalk, 8:30 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC: E.O. Smith/Tolland at Rocky Hill, 3:45p.m.; East Hartford at Manchester/RHAM, 3:45p.m.
Others: H-K/Morgan/Valley at Hamden, 4p.m.; Greenwich at Cheshire, 7p.m.

TUESDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

YALE 66, DARTMOUTH 61
VILLANOVA AT UCONN, LATE
LEC **Tourney**—Quarterfinal
UMASS-BOSTON AT EASTERN, LATE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

LEC **Tourney**—Quarterfinal
EASTERN 56, CASTLETON 37
GNAC **Tourney**—First Round
JOHNSON & WALES AT ST. JOSEPH, LATE

MEN'S HOCKEY

YALE AT QUINNIPIAC, LATE

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

CLARK 22, ST. JOSEPH 10

WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UMBC at Hartford, 7p.m.
GNAC **Tourney**—Quarterfinal
TBD at St. Joseph, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Marquette at UConn (XL), 7p.m.
Hartford at UMBC, 7p.m.

BASEBALL

Sacred Heart at Fordham, 3p.m.

SOFTBALL

Quinnipiac at Sacred Heart, 2:30p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Central at Iona, 2p.m.
Quinnipiac at Sacred Heart, 3p.m.
Boston University at Fairfield, 3p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Big East basketball standings
MEN'S

Team	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
Providence	12-2	.857	22-3	.880
Villanova	14-3	.824	21-6	.778
UConn	10-5	.667	19-7	.731
Creighton	10-5	.667	18-8	.692
Marquette	9-7	.562	17-10	.630
Xavier	7-8	.467	17-9	.654
Seton Hall	7-8	.467	16-9	.640
St. John's	7-8	.467	15-11	.577
Butler	6-11	.353	13-15	.464
DePaul	3-13	.188	12-14	.462
Georgetown	0-15	.000	6-20	.231

TUESDAY'S RESULT

VILLANOVA AT UCONN, LATE

WEDNESDAY'S SCHEDULE

Creighton at St. John's, 6:30p.m.
Xavier at Providence, 7p.m.
Butler at Seton Hall, 8:30p.m.

WOMEN'S

Team	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
UConn	13-1	.929	19-5	.792
Creighton	15-4	.789	20-7	.741
Villanova	12-4	.750	18-7	.720
DePaul	13-5	.722	21-8	.724
Marquette	11-6	.647	18-8	.692
Seton Hall	10-8	.556	15-11	.577
St. John's	7-10	.412	11-16	.407
Providence	6-12	.333	11-16	.407
Xavier	4-13	.235	9-17	.346
Georgetown	2-14	.125	7-17	.292
Butler	0-16	.000	1-24	.040

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

SETON HALL 84, BUTLER 55
VILLANOVA AT GEORGETOWN, LATE

WEDNESDAY'S SCHEDULE

Marquette at UConn, 7p.m.

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

MEN'S

Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPTS
UMass Lowell	29	17-9-3	22	13-8-1	40
UMass	29	17-10-2	20	12-6-2	40
UConn	29	17-12-0	20	13-7-0	38
Merrimack	30	17-12-1	21	12-9-0	38
Northeastern	31	20-10-1	19	11-7-1	35
Boston Univ.	30	17-10-3	20	11-6-3	35
Providence	34	19-13-2	22	10-11-1	33
New Hampshire	30	14-15-1	21	8-12-1	25
Boston College	32	11-16-5	20	6-11-3	23
Maine	28	6-18-4	20	4-14-2	15
Vermont	29	6-21-2	19	4-13-2	14

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

UConn at Northeastern, 7p.m.
Boston University at Boston College, 7p.m.
Maine at Providence, 7p.m.
UMass at Vermont, 7p.m.
LIU at UMass Lowell, 7:15p.m.

WOMEN'S

Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPTS
Northeastern	33	27-4-2	26	21-3-2	67
Vermont	34	21-10-3	27	18-7-2	57
UConn	34	22-8-4	27	16-7-4	50
Boston College	33	19-13-1	26	16-9-1	47
Maine	33	14-18-1	26	12-13-1	41
Boston Univ.	32	12-14-6	25	11-9-5	39
Providence	34	15-13-6	27	12-12-3	39
New Hampshire	33	11-20-2	26	9-16-1	30
Merrimack	32	7-24-1	27	6-20-1	20
Holy Cross	32	3-29-0	27	1-26-0	6

WEDNESDAY'S SCHEDULE

Hockey East **Tourney**—First Round
Merrimack at New Hampshire, 7p.m.
Holy Cross at Providence, 7p.m.

